# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-087
Monday
6 May 1991

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## Latin America

*FBIS-LAT-91-087* *6 May 1991*

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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## Cuba

### 'Best-Known' Cuban Political Dissident Freed

*PA0605021991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0021 GMT 6 May 91*

[Text] Havana, 5 May (EFE)—The Cuban Human Rights and National Reconciliation Committee (CDHRNC) has reported that Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz was freed by the authorities today. Sanchez Santa Cruz is the best-known Cuban political dissident and recognized as a "prisoner of conscience."

Sanchez, who directs the CDHRNC, has been freed after being in jail since July 1989. He has been freed under the legal term "extrapenal license"—a sort of "conditional freedom granted by the Interior Ministry, which makes it possible for him to remain out of prison."

EFE was able to talk to Sanchez Santa Cruz by telephone. He said he was in good spirits, with his family, and trying to contact old friends he had before he went to jail.

Regarding his future projects, he said that until he is totally free, his prison term expires on 1 August, the law prevents him from undertaking any activities, but he plans to "continue working, always within the law."

Sanchez Santa Cruz explained that the number one task his group is working on is the CDHRNC's legalization, which was requested from the Cuban State Council in 1987, and so far, remains unanswered.

Sanchez also said that "I have no intention of going to the United States. This is my country and I must continue working here, even though conditions are very difficult."

He said that he has lost his job as a Marxist philosophy professor at Havana University, but will reapply for it.

Sanchez Santa Cruz has been in jail since 1 August 1989, after making statements to the international media after the trial and execution of former General Arnaldo Ochoa and three other high- ranking officers. The Cuban authorities considered his statements to be crimes against the state.

He was accused of "spreading false news detrimental to international peace," and sentenced by a special court to two years imprisonment, which will end 1 August 1991.

Sanchez Santa Cruz spent most of the 21 months at the Aguica maximum security jail, about 200 km east of Havana.

The CDHRNC communique says that "in 1987 Elizardo Sanchez proclaimed the idea of the national reconciliation as a way to resolve Cuba's principal problems. He has been strongly criticized for this by the extreme right and extreme left sectors of the Cuban political spectrum."

Along with Sanchez Santa Cruz, dissidents Hiram Abi Cobas and Hubert Jerez were also jailed for the same reason and given 18-month prison terms.

Both have been freed over the past few months. Hiram Abi Cobas traveled to the United States and Hubert Jerez is planning to do so soon.

### Castro Visits Guira de Melena Vegetable Farm

*FL0405012591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro visited areas of the Guira de Melena Vegetable Enterprise this morning to find out how the food program is progressing in that region. During his tour, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, accompanied by Manuel Tamanes Godoy, first party secretary in Guira de Melena Municipality, expressed interest in the plantains being grown with microjet irrgation, as well as their weeding and care. Later he went to a cucumber field and talked with people mobilized at the "Victory Smile" camp and students from Boyeros Municipality doing vacation-time work. He stressed the importance of the work they are doing.

The top leader of the revolution asked about the spring planting plan. He was told that by the end of April, more than 126 caballerias had been planted, which is twice last year's figure. He was also told about the condition of some seeds for crops to be planted soon. At the end of Fidel's visit to the Guira de Melena Vegetable Enterprise, he expressed satisfaction, as on other occasions, at having seen the mobilized people working hard and the cultivated areas free of weeds.

### U.S. Accused of 'Inducing' Rights Violations

*FL0305162091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] The Permanent People's Tribunal of Latin America has stated that the U.S. Government is guilty of inducing human rights violations and supporting the atmosphere of impunity that prevails in the countries of this region. Msgr Sergio Mendez Salcedo, archbishop of Cuernavaca, publicly stated this in Mexico City. He asserted that the U.S. Administration is ignoring its obligation to sanction those who are guilty of crimes against humanity.

The Latin American tribunal is composed of international judges, experts, and delegates from 12 countries. They met from 22 to 25 April in Bogota, Colombia. Mendez Salcedo, who attended the meetings, reported that the governments of Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Uruguay, and Paraguay were also accused of human rights violations during the deliberation sessions.

## Lionel Soto Meets With Caricom Delegation

*FL0405124691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] Lionel Soto, vice president of the Council of Ministers, has received the technical delegation of the Caribbean Common Market, Caricom, headed by Byron Black, director of economy and industry of the regional organization's secretariat. In the meeting, the two parties analyzed the program of activities developed in Cuba and the outlook of cooperation in the areas of trade, sugar industry, agricultural-livestock biotechnology, and fisheries. The need to strengthen economic relations among Caribbean countries and a greater integration with Latin America was also confirmed.

## Third World Economic Crisis Assessed

*FL0305181891 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1403 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has reported that the situation in Third World countries could hardly be more desperate due to the deterioration of trade and foreign debts. Escalona is participating in the 85th Interparliamentary Union Conference being held in Pyongyang, DPRK. Some 500 legislators from 88 nations are attending the conference.

During the general debates on the social situation of the world, Escalona explained that the economies of the underdeveloped countries will not be able to withstand the current crisis for much longer. According to Escalona, this meeting is being held during a period in which the strategic balance of the world is disrupted, the economic crises of developing countries are worsening, and peace in the Middle East has yet to be reached.

## Ecuador's Borja Against Isolation of Cuba

*FL0405012691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2325 GMT 3 May 91*

[Report by Carlos Santana Ojeda on the "Exclusivo" program; passages n quotations marks are recorded]

[Text] I want to inform you that Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja has transmitted a warm message to the Cuban people during a news conference he gave at the Government Palace for a group of reporters from seven Latin American countries who were participating in a workshop/course on radio programming organized by the International Center for Advanced Communications Studies for Latin America. Borja showed himself to be very friendly and in solidarity with us when he answered our questions concerning Cuba. To the question of why he has said that Cuba should not be isolated but rather helped, he answered as follows.

[Borja] "For several reasons. At a time of integration of small nations in order to achieve development goals through joint actions by these countries, no country can be condemned to deintegration, or to isolation. Secondly, because it is not our place, or anyone's place, to judge the ideologies or actions of the different governments in the region."

In another part of his talk, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja stressed Cuba's actions in solidarity with Latin American and Caribbean countries.

[Borja] "In this regard, I think that there has been harmonious cooperation between Cuba and Ecuador. I can give as an example the cooperation Cuba gave us when, years ago, before my administration, dengue was hitting some coastal areas of Ecuador. The Cubans had great experience and cooperated with us to fight an illness they knew much better than we did. Also in foreign trade, we can make mutually beneficial deals, which do not represent [words indistinct] aid, but rather cooperation that is beneficial to both nations."

Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja stated that relations with Cuba are satisfactory and that his country is willing to cooperate in some economic fields such as the oil industry. He also mentioned the agreements that are being carried out with Cuba concerning culture, sports, and preventive medicine.

## Malmierca on Deteriorating Ties With CSFR

*LD0305202191 Prague CTK in English 1731 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Havana May 3 (CTK correspondent) - "The fact that we are witnessing the definite end of the Czechoslovak cultural centre in Havana is a tangible proof that the Czechoslovak-Cuban relations are deteriorating", Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca told a CTK correspondent Thursday night.

Malmierca took part in the inauguration of a new international press centre that was established in the building which had been the Czechoslovak cultural centre for 30 years.

"Cuba was no longer interested in further operation of the Czechoslovak cultural centre in Havana because this centre was excessive in both its size and possible impact of its activities. No other country has ever had a cultural centre of this size in Cuba and further existence of the centre did not correspond to the relations between Cuba and Czechoslovakia. The level of these relations has evidently decreased. The opening of a Czechoslovak centre of this size cannot be expected in future because it is not Cuban Government policy to establish such centres", Malmierca said.

"The closure of the Cuban cultural centre in Prague is another evidence of the scaling down of Cuban-Czechoslovak relations and this development has to be considered a political reality", Malmierca said.

He added that despite the deterioration of political relations between Cuba and Czechoslovakia, Cuba is interested in continued contacts in science and culture.

### Salvadoran Guerrilla Commander Interviewed

*FL0405124791 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 91*

[Interview with guerrilla Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FLMN, by Nelson Notario Castro; in Mexico City, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Notario Castro] Commander Ana Guadalupe, what happened in the meeting? Can Salvadorans expect peace in their country?

[Martinez] I believe that the meeting was one of the many meetings that are going to be held in this process because obviously the Salvadoran problem is a truly complex one. It cannot be solved in 15 days of negotiations. Nevertheless, for us the results of this meeting are the beginning of a number of changes that for many years—I would say decades—generations of Salvadorans expected to happen. The main changes that have to take place in El Salvador are related to the loss of power of the Salvadoran Army, to leave them subordinated to the civil society and power. Therefore, constitutional reforms in that area were fundamental for us.

[Notario Castro] Has that goal of taking away power from the Army been achieved?

[Martinez] Well, the Army's field of action is limited a great deal in the reforms that are going to be introduced to the Constitution.

[Notario Castro] Are they going to be introduced to the Constitution now as a result of the Mexico meeting?

[Martinez] Yes. The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN agreed to limit the functions of the Army to what is strictly related to the defense of the territory and the national sovereignty and to take away the functions of public safety. Whenever there were demonstrations, the Army went out to repress. Of course, it is a war machinery that is used to kill and it went out to kill people in the streets. There is another group of agreements that is aimed at unifying and truly opening the country to a genuine democracy.

[Notario Castro] Guerrilla Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, the Cuban people have followed the struggle of the Salvadoran people. They have shown and continue to show solidarity with the struggle of the Salvadoran people. Of course, they wish the best for your people; peace with honor. Do you have a message for the Cuban people, via the Cuban television, regarding the progress made up to now? What is the outlook for peace? In sum, what would you like to tell our people?

[Martinez] First, I want to express appreciation for all the solidarity. There is a camp for handicapped Salvadoran front combatants in Havana, near Havana. They have received all the affection, all the attention the Cuban people are capable of giving to the Salvadoran revolutionary combatants. For us, this is a huge demonstration of everything the Cuban people are capable of giving to us. I would also like to tell the Cuban people that our aspirations are linked to principles the Cubans have defended such as independence, sovereignty, social justice, democracy, and being a small Third World country with dignity.

### Havana Notes Auxiliary Bishop Appointment

*FL0305150491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1306 GMT 3 May 91*

[Excerpt] The Apostolic Nunciature has the honor of announcing that His Holiness John Paul II has appointed Reverend Emilio Aranguren Echeverria as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Cienfuegos, Santa Clara. Rev. Aranguren Echeverria was a priest at this diocese. He was assigned to the main seat of [words indistinct] in Santa Clara. [passage omitted]

## Inter-Caribbean Affairs

### Caricom Foreign Ministers To Meet in Barbados

*FL0405145591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1417 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 4, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) foreign ministers will meet here May 13 and 14, under Barbados' chairmanship, to discuss issues including the widening of the community, illicit drugs and the environment.

The 17th Standing Committee of Ministers meeting, at the Dover Convention Centre, will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of senior officials on May 9 and 10.

A Barbados Foreign Ministry statement identifies as agenda items for the ministerial meeting matters related to: widening the community; drug trafficking and abuse; environmental policy and management; diplomatic training; coordination of Caricom positions in international organisations; consideration of joint representation of Caricom states; and international political and economic issues of interest to the region.

Barbados has named a seven-member delegation, headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Maurice King who will make the feature address at the opening of the meeting.

### Commonwealth Environmental Meeting Planned

*FL0305204291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1544 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] London, May 3, CANA—Two Caribbean representatives are among 16 Commonwealth environmental experts and top policy-makers to meet in London May 7-9 to discuss environmental concerns and advise on action to protect the environment. The group, requested by the 1989 summit of Commonwealth leaders, will begin work on a report to be finalised at a subsequent

meeting for presentation to the Commonwealth summit in Harare, Zimbabwe, in October.

Beverly Miller of Jamaica and Dr. Naresh Singh of St. Lucia are the Caribbean experts on the team, which will be led by Pauline Marstand of Britain. Miller is a senior programme officer in the Caribbean Environmental Programme, and Singh is director of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute

The expert group will give particular attention to the problems of small states and the relationship between concern for women's role in development and concern for the environment, the Commonwealth Secretariat in London said Friday.

At their 1989 summit in Malaysia, Commonwealth leaders issued the Langkawi Declaration, which committed them to a programme of collective and national action on environmental issues. These issues are expected to be prominent on the agenda for the coming Harare summit.

## Dominica

### Carib Population Wants Representation at Assembly

*FL0405175891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1727 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 4, CANA—The small Carib population in Dominica is asking for direct representation on a regional constituent assembly discussing a proposed political union for the islands of St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent.

In a letter circulated to the press here, the Caribs complain that while various interest groups are given representation at the RCA [regional constituent assembly] level, they are being deprived of that opportunity.

"We are talking Caribbean unity, and any decisions taken at these meetings the Caribs have to abide with, for they were not given the opportunity to be represented and make resolutions on behalf of the Carib people," they said.

The Carib indians, Dominica's indigenous people, want direct representation at the next regional constituent assembly meeting. But Dominica's minister of external affairs and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Unity, Brian Alleyne, says the views of the Carib people are being represented through various interest groups.

"The Carib people are fully a part of Dominica," he said. "And they are members of political parties which are represented. The women of Dominica are represented and the Carib people include women. The trade union movement, all these different sectors, are represented."

He said it would be impossible to give all groups representation on the RCA. He suggested that the Caribs use provisions made for groups or individuals to submit memoranda and to make presentations during sittings of the RCA.

Dominica Labour Party [DLP] leader Michael Douglas, whose DLP represents the views of the Carib people in parliament, agrees with the official position that the Caribs are catered for under the present arrangements.

## Haiti

### Burning Barricades Isolate St. Marc on 3 May

*FL0305212591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 3 May 91*

[Report by correspondent Leonor Exantus in Saint Marc]

[Text] The presence of burning barricades on National Highway No. 1 in Saint Marc has been reported. Our correspondent points out the presence of these burning barricades at Portail Guepe, in Saint Marc. These barricades of burning tires were allegedly erected by members of organizations within the area that are in conflict.

[Begin Exantus recording] Two burning barricades comprising tires and shells of cars were set up at the northern and southern city limits of Saint Marc very early in the morning. Four placards displaying the names of 14 organizations were placed by several members of the Saint Marc Patriotic Youth Movement [Mouvman Jen Patriyot Saint Marc, MJPSM], in front of a barricade in Chemin Neuf and contain the following slogan: "We do not want Jean-Gardy Moise for Saint Marc." They think this choice was not made as a concerted action. We could read on the same placards some fierce words directed at members of some other organizations. The message is that they will not accept that other people enjoy the fruit of their own work [Haitian proverb: Bourik pap travay bay cheval galonnen].

This situation hinders the traffic in the lower Artibonite area where the cars coming from both Port-au-Prince and the north are forced to stop. It is also causing a real panic in the city where everyone is obliged to walk. Yes, it is a real problem as two barricades have been erected at the city's northern and southern approaches. There is no contact between the north and the south of the country as a result of the blocked traffic. [end recording]

### TPTC Minister Presents Projects to Senate

*FL0305205091 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 3 May 91*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Within the scope of the meetings which the Senate plans to have with several members of the Aristide-Preval government, the chamber met today with Agriculture Minister Francois Sevrain, an agronomist. Later the chamber met with Public Works, Transport, and Communications [TPTC] Minister Frantz Verella, an engineer. Minister Verella

presented several projects which his ministry will undertake. Some have already been started. These projects include roads, bridges over rivers, and so forth.

The minister mentioned problems existing in several sections which his ministry supervises. He spoke of the funds which his ministry is due to receive to execute these projects through to a successful conclusion. He spoke as well of projects the Public Works Ministry plans to do and that could begin by October. They will cost a significant amount of money. For example there is work to be done in the Cite Soleil area where there are small houses which are near gullies. They are going to destroy these houses. They must compensate the owners of these houses by giving them a certain amount of money.

Minister Verella highlighted the situation in many areas like the northwest, the southeast, Jeremie, Trouin, Carrefour Beaudin, Bainet, and so forth which are are cut off in relation to roads and means of communication. [passage omitted]

### Educational Association Formed With Martinique

*FL0305221591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 2 May 91*

[Excerpt] Haiti and Martinique have established a new association named HAIMA. This association comprises teachers from both countries with the mission of promoting touristic, artistic, and cultural exchanges between Haiti and Martinique. The association's goals are to reinforce friendship and solidarity between Haitians and Martiniquais by initiating mutual projects with the backing of the concerned authorities.

The first project considered within the framework of HAIMA is the organization of a visit by several people from Martinique to Haiti during the month of July and the organization of a Haiti-Martinique cultural week.

[Begin correspondent William recording] On 30 April, the National Confederation of Haitian Teachers, CNEH made public the name of a new fellowship, HAIMA, which is made up of Haitians and Martiniquais. This association was created in Martinique within the framework of developing good relations between Haitian teachers and other Caribbean teachers. HAIMA's mission is to promote touristic, artistic, and cultural exchanges between Haiti and Martinique, to reinforce the friendship and solidarity already existing between the two countries, and to undertake all projects commonly agreed upon by the two countries with the backing of the concerned authorities.

The formation of this new association is the result of a pedagogical support project in some communal schools, according to Carl Henri Guito, secretary general at CNEH. HAIMA intends to cover within its framework about 70 communal schools throughout the nine geographical departments in the country. According to the federation spokesman, the association will be able to provide books and school material to 4,200 first and second year students. They also project the training of 210 school teachers and directors. Carl Henri Guito and his colleagues also stated that 800 teachers from eight provinces will receive a six-week theoretical course followed by in classroom application. The cost of these projects totals $111,450. Martinique's contribution is $78,015 and CNEH's contribution is $33,435 dollars. [passage omitted] [end recording]

## Jamaica

### Bauxite Exports Register Moderate Improvement

*FL0305234091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2112 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 3, CANA—Jamaica's exports of bauxite and alumina for the first quarter of 1991 have shown moderate improvements over January-March 1990, according to the Jamaica Bauxite Institute [JBI]. Some 685,381 tonnes of alumina were exported this year, compared to the first quarter of 1990 shipments of 679,342 tonnes. Exports of crude bauxite increased by 11.7 pecent to 1,024,433 tonnes from 916,770 tonnes in 1990.

According to the JBI, shipments would have been better if Jamaica had supplied an additional 200,000 tonnes to the Soviet Union as was expected. Shipments of bauxite to the Soviet Union were suspended following difficulties with shipping and payment schedules. Jamaica exports one million tonnes of bauxite to the Soviet Union annually under a five-year contract. However only 50,000 tonnes have been shipped to the USSR since the year began.

Total bauxite shipments for the 1991 first quarter amounted to 2,680,292 tonnes, a 5.5 percent increase over the 2,539,636 tonnes in 1990.

Some 758,038 tonnes of alumina were manufactured, an increase of 10.6 percent over the 1990 first quarter of 658,345 tonnes. With respect to crude bauxite, 1,010,089 tonnes were produced in the first quarter, an increase of 13.1 percent over the 1990 figure of 893,082 tonnes.

## Trinidad and Tobago

### Extradition Treaty Proposed With Venezuela

*FL0305224191 Bridgetown CANA in English 2034 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 3, CANA—A Trinidad and Tobago-Venezuela mixed commission on illicit drugs has recommended an extradition treaty between the two states.

"We felt that we should have at least, first of all, an extradiction treaty that deals with the offences that relate to drugs," Trinidad and Tobago Security Minister Joseph Toney told reporters after the commission met in

Port- of-Spain. Both countries have to approve the extradition proposal, and other measures recommended by the meeting, Toney said. Toney led the Trinidad delegation, while Minister of State Dr. Enrique Rivas Gomez, headed the Venezuelan team.

The leaders of the neighbouring republics established the commission in 1987. Venezuela has offered scholarships in the areas of drug rehabilitation, treatment, and research, as well as other assistance. The commission, which agreed that Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela were transshipment points for illicit drugs, said that there should be "standardization" of penalties for drug offenders in the two countries.

"One must be very careful. One would not want a situation.... Where a person felt that a penalty was lighter in Venezuela, that he believes that he must commit that crime in Venezuela, but if he comes (here) to commit that crime, that the penalty would be a heavier one," Toney said.

On the issue of money laundering, Toney said Venezuela was attempting to develop a system to arrest the problem. The two countries agreed to exchange information in cases of suspicious money transactions across their borders. "But one has to be very careful since the relationship between the banker and the client is a confidential one and the state has to be very careful," Toney said.

The second mixed commission meeting will take place in six months' time in Venezuela.

## Salinas Makes Statements After May Day Parade

*PA0405140891 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 2 May 91*

[Report by Roberto Garduno Espinoza in Mexico City—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Upon conclusion of the 1 May parade, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari addressed the Mexican working class. The president referred to the free trade agreement and emphasized its importance as an instrument to strengthen Mexico. He said that negotiations will be carried out among sovereign nations because we do not want others to decide for us how we will participate in the international market, he said.

[Salinas] "The negotiations, if carried out, will not be hasty, because either we participate in negotiations beneficial for the country or there will be no treaty."

The president said that if the negotiations are carried out, the Mexicans will sponsor a clear recognition of the differences which prevail between the three countries' economies, and the necessary adjustment periods in each sector. Thus, the negotiations will be serious and among equals, and they will strictly abide by the Constitution of our country.

[Salinas] "Good negotiations will defend our interests according to our Constitution, our conditions, and our vocation for development. The United States and Canada will do likewise, according to their internal processes—which we respect just as we demand respect for ours."

Within that framework, the president of the republic also mentioned the role played by the Mexican workers in the treaty negotiations. He warned that there will be no changes in the labor laws for our country's workers.

[Salinas] "There will be no changes to our labor laws to threaten the Mexican workers' rights. The workers have struggled long and hard for these rights. These rights are stated in our labor laws, and they are permanent. They are intended to benefit the workers and we will continue to struggle so that they may become a reality."

The president reasserted his pledge not to harm the environment. He said that we want a clean and healthy economic recovery, because future generations are also important.

[Salinas] "We do not want investments that produce polluting gases, toxic materials that threaten the workers, or sewage that poisons our consumers by contaminating the crops."

President Salinas de Gortari said that the important thing is to work for justice in Mexico, because a country with greater justice is more and more sovereign. Thus, the Mexican people's unity is essential in times of change.

[Salinas] "We remember very well what has allowed us to emerge successful in our struggles. It has been the Mexican people's unity around popular causes; their tenaciousness; their loyalty; and their deep conviction that only a broad scheme of unity will enable us to overcome current and future challenges."

## Sepesca on U.S. Suspension of Embargo

*PA0505043591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0007 GMT 5 May 91*

[Text] Mazatlan, Sinaloa State, Mexico 4 May (NOTIMEX)—The Fishing Secretariat (Sepesca) has reported that the indefinite postponement of the embargo on Mexican shrimp by the United States represents recognition of the fact that the country is protecting the sea turtle species.

Luis Ernesto Montono Ley, chief of the Fisheries Administration Department of Sepesca, said that perhaps the measure was adopted by the United States because Sepesca presented positive results regarding the protection of turtle species.

Montono Ley stated that Sepesca has many turtle-raising fisheries along the Mexican coast to protect the species, which was reportedly being affected by shrimp fishing.

In addition, Sergio Rochin Trujillo, legal adviser of the National Association of the Social Sector of Fishing (Anasspe), said that the Mexican fishing authorities have implemented the proper measures to protect the turtle species. He explained the permanent sea turtle fishing prohibition imposed since 1 June 1990, and the use of the "Ted" type net, which is a specialized device for shrimp fishing only.

Meanwhile, Ines Ahumada Cervantes, treasurer of the Regional Federation of Local Fishing Cooperatives, noted that the measure adopted by the U.S. Commerce Department is an implicit recognition of the efforts carried out by Mexico to protect the species of sea turtle.

## Labor, Environment Not Trade Agreement Topics

*PA0305201091 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 May 91*

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Commerce and Industrial Development Secretary Jaime Serra Puche has said that Mexico has clear and firm environmental and labor policies and these issues will not be subject to negotiation within the future free trade agreement.

[Serra Puche] "The two governments clearly understand that labor and environmental issues will not be subject to negotiation within the free trade agreement."

Serra Puche said that on 3 May an agreement of understanding on labor issues will be signed by the Mexican Labor Secretariat and the U.S. Labor Department. He

also said that Mexico is most interested in developing within a clean environment.

[Serra Puche] "As you know, any new investment in Mexico requires that the company that is installed—be it Mexican, U.S., Canadian, or Chinese—conduct a careful study of its environmental impact. The impact that a company can have on the environment is restricted, so our environmental laws are fully implemented."

At a news conference Serra Puche commented on the letter that U.S. President George Bush sent to the U.S. Congress on 2 May, pointing out four of the document's most important features: First, it acknowledges the economic progress Mexico has made; second, it contains a detailed explanation of the labor and environmental issues; third, it states the need for a period of transition; and fourth, it states the positive effects of the future trade agreement in terms of job generation and growth.

[Serra Puche] "To the extent that Mexico can grow faster because its exports are growing faster as a result of the free trade agreement, there will be greater production and productivity, more jobs will be generated, and salaries will recover."

Concerning the transition period, he said it may be 10 years before disruptions in certain sectors can be avoided.

### Solana on Foreign Policy, Cooperation With EEC

*PA0605002291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0253 GMT 5 May 91*

[Text] Mexico City, (NOTIMEX)—Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana said today that Mexico has no exclusive agreements with any country or region.

"The diversification of our foreign policy allows us to have an important presence in all blocs and countries, and Europe is a fundamental option," Solana said.

In an interview, the Mexican foreign minister said that his recent working tour of five European countries lies within the Mexican strategy of diversifying options and contacts abroad.

He said that as a specific result, Mexico signed the framework of a cooperation agreement with the 12 countries of the EEC.

It is the most complete agreement that any Latin American country has signed with the EEC, and it opens up the possibility of increasing our cooperation in all areas with these countries, he said.

It is, without a doubt, an unprecedented cooperation instrument, signed at an appropriate time by Mexico and the EEC, Solana said.

"We also attended a meeting which has become a regular occurrence between the Rio Group and the EEC. It may not have resulted in any spectacular results yet, but Latin America has been increasing its role and importance in the projects of the EEC," he said.

He said proof of this is that the member countries of "Mercosur" (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) have initiated talks with the 12 EEC countries to reach an agreement similar to the one signed by Mexico.

In this aspect, he said that the government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari is "trailblazing." We are the first Latin American country to reach an agreement of this type with Europe, he said.

Solana said that the agreement includes a whole array of fields and sectors, "which will allow us to lay out a more permanent road to strengthen the ties of cooperation between Mexico and the 12 EEC countries."

He said that the agreement coordinates cooperation in areas such as trade, industry, and investment, but it also allows us to cover other areas such as intellectual property, science and technology, telecommunications, the environment, transportation, and cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.

To sum up, Solana said, it is an agreement that covers wide and diversified areas of cooperation. In addition, it will allow us to participate with a greater certainty in the market of 340 million consumers in 1992.

He said that up to now, progress has been made in the framework of the agreement, including a 12-point program in the areas of trade, industry, and investment. The trading of citrus fruits, furniture, as well as textile, fishing, and agriculture products is being promoted.

Agreements have been signed with Mexican financial institutions for co-investment projects and, with the support of the EEC, a "Mexican Trade Fair" will be held in Madrid in late May, Solana said.

The foreign secretary said that Mexico is determined to intensify its strategy of trade diversification with all countries and regions of the world.

As an example, he said, on 10 May, Mexico will formally join the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council in Singapore.

## Costa Rica

### Authorities Break Up Paramilitary Group

*PA0405023291 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0107 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] A paramilitary organization that was planning to attack the president has been broken up. The national authorities have dismantled a paramilitary organization, led by a former security agent, which was plotting against President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier during the past electoral campaign. The principal leader is Alvaro Sequeira Ramirez, who in 1988 was involved in some paramilitary activities and was subsequently tried.

Following several raids, military materiel was seized and nine men and women were arrested. According to the reports, the group was initially planning destabilization actions. Later, a commando group would attack Security Ministry installations, and after that they would attack the president.

According to investigations, the cell had a camp in Guapiles and another near La Cruz Hill in Alajuelita. Four individuals were arrested on 27 April in La Ponderosa Estate in Guapiles. The individuals were carrying military materiel, including an AK-47 rifle, fragmentation grenades, and ammunition, as well as olive green uniforms, blankets, and knapsacks. Last weekend the authorities raided several homes in San Felipe, Alajuelita, where other militants were arrested.

We have learned that several campaign promises that were not kept provoked the anger of the leader and members of the group. Sequeira Ramirez, who at one time was a religious leader and a labor leader, was arrested on 4 June 1988 on charges of possessing firearms and illegal association. It is believed that he also organized a group of over 20 men and women to carry out a series of terrorist attacks.

The group was expecting an arms shipment from Nicaragua within the next few days. Obviously, the arms would enter illegally. The man responsible for this shipment is Parrales Ceballos, who entered Costa Rica as a Nicaraguan refugee. It is believed that this same individual previously has brought in weapons.

The other arrested individuals are: Sala Sandoval, Ramirez de la O., Rodriguez Naranjo, and his uncle, Jimenez Rodriguez—who turned himself in on 25 April—and Gallardo Moreno.

Unofficial reports add that the supplies would be sent from the Sandinist Army.

### Further Details on Plot

*PA0405185691 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1727 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] San Jose, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)—Police sources announced today that police broke up an alleged guerrilla group, arrested 14 people, and confiscated military materiel, all intended to carry out actions against the government.

The sources said that the 27 April operation that tracked down the group on the Atlantic coast had yielded an AK-47 submachine gun, two M-76 fragmentation grenades, clips, olive drab uniforms, and food.

This materiel was smuggled in from Nicaragua by a Nicaraguan citizen identified by the surnames Parrales Ceballos, alleged group leader and in charge of military training, according to the sources.

No further details were released, but it appears that the group was led by a person with the surnames Sequeira Ramirez.

The subversive group, called Defenders of Social Rights [Defensores de los Derechos Sociales], had pitched an improvised camp in the area to hold military exercises and training.

## El Salvador

### Debate Continues on Cease-Fire Agreement

#### Armed Forces 'Willing To Sign'

*PA0405042491 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0306 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce said today that the Armed Forces are willing to sign a cease-fire agreement with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] as soon as possible. The high-ranking military commander and new Air Force Commander Colonel Hector Rene Lobo agreed, saying that it all depends on the rebels' political will.

The progress recently achieved in the dialogue and negotiating process in Mexico City has been positive, Defense Minister Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce stated today. He emphasized that great progress has been made in the negotiations on the Armed Forces issue. Thus, the signing of a cease-fire agreement will now depend on the FMLN's political willingness, the high-ranking military commander said.

[Begin recording] [Ponce] The government is willing to sign a cease-fire agreement tomorrow, so all we need is the FMLN's willingness. So the FMLN must now adopt a flexible attitude and be willing to sign a cease-fire agreement. The FMLN raised great hopes and expectations among the Salvadoran people and the whole world with its statements in Managua.

[Reporter Antonio Mineros] General, it is reported that discussion of the Armed Froces issue has achieved considerable progress in the negotiations. Is that true?

[Ponce] Yes. The Armed Forces issue has been debated at length and analyzed in depth during the various rounds of talks held throughout last year. We believe that efforts to achieve an agreement are on the right track.

[Mineros] Mr. Minister, the Legislative Assembly—or at least, the executive branch—has stated that the amendments to the constitution will be ratified provided a cease-fire is achieved. As defense minister, do you agree?

[Ponce] It was definitely the Armed Forces' first reaction, meaning that a cease-fire is what the Salvadoran people need and what the Salvadoran people are waiting for. Of course, the FMLN will have to sign a cease-fire agreement that correlates with what occurs at the talks; the latest Legislative Assembly's amendments agreement must be ratified once the cease-fire agreement is implemented. [end recording]

The Al Dia newscast interviewed new Salvadoran Air Force Commander Colonel Hector Pinel Lobo, who did not discuss the topic. Neverthless, he emphasized that the Armed Forces will continue to endorse the end of the war in the country.

[Begin recording] [Mineros] What is your opinion of the progress achieved in the negotiations to end the war in the country, Colonel?

[Lobo] I want to be quite clear about this. I do not want to meddle in political issues and [words indistinct]. I am a professional and I do not wish to state my views on the issue.

[Mineros] Nevertheless, Colonel, the Armed Forces must want the conflict to end.

[Lobo] Well, I think we all want the problem to end. We think the government is handling everything appropriately. We hope the Salvadoran people will soon achieve peace. [end recording]

The two military commanders made their statements shortly before President Alfredo Cristiani inaugurated a modern aeronautics communication equipment facility at the Central American Corporation of Air Navigation Services. The modern equipment is part of the new telecommunications network linking the Central American countries, including Belize, as the first phase of the process to modernize the isthmus' aeronautical services.

## FMLN Urges Demilitarization

*PA0505173391 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 May 91*

[Excerpts] The Salvadoran guerrillas have said that neither side involved in the conflict will disarm until the negotiations to end the 11-year-old war are concluded.

An important political source who asked not to be identified said the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, will not negotiate the demobilization of its forces unless its counterpart agrees to negotiate the country's complete demilitarization. [passage omitted]

The rebels claim that during the 11-year war in El Salvador, which has caused more than 75,000 deaths, neither side has achieved military victory and therefore neither should attempt to disarm the other at the negotiating table.

The FMLN contends that since the beginning of the war, it has maintained 26 rural and three urban fronts in 13 of the 14 Salvadoran departments. Furthermore, it maintains that 60 of the 262 municipalities in El Salvador are in territories under guerrilla control or in disputed areas. This, according to the guerrillas, should be taken into consideration to reach agreements for the demobilization of its forces.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce said this week that the FMLN does not have absolute control over any part of the country. The government, through the Armed Forces, has always maintained control over the national territory, so the FMLN may not demand any recognition, Ponce stressed.

## FMLN Claims 'Noncompliance'

*PA0405193691 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 4 May 91*

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in El Salvador on 1 May]

[Text] 1. After the difficulty in reaching the Mexico agreements, new and unacceptable changes were introduced in the Legislative Assembly, changes that jeopardize the seriousness and future of the negotiations.

2. The FMLN feels the Alfredo Cristiani government is not keeping to the Mexico agreements, although Cristiani gave his word through the government delegation in El Salvador [as heard]. The second paragraph of the final declaration reads as follows: The parties reaffirm their commitment to implement all the necessary actions to fully comply with the terms of the agreement. The Salvadoran Government, in particular, solemnly pledges to promote before the current legislature the approval of the constitutional amendments agreed on by the sides in this round of negotiations.

3. In the face of this noncompliance the FMLN will reconsider the system of negotiations to find greater guarantees to ensure compliance with the agreements. To that effect, it will immediately contact the United Nations to formally protest this noncompliance and will begin discussions to find solutions to the new problem posed by the government.

4. It is impossible to accept that a process to which the entire nation and the international community are committed begins with a false step, making concessions to those with private ambitions for power and the saboteurs of the negotiations.

5. The forces of the nation that support true negotiations have sufficient strength to guarantee compliance with these agreements and to prevent a minority sector from hindering the progress of and compliance with the Mexico agreements.

6. It is highly dangerous for the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance to be responsible for modifying agreements established between its president and the FMLN, in addition to introducing the death penalty as a act of revenge and intimidation totally at odds with the reconciliation of Salvadoran society.

7. The FMLN notices with concern that, along with sabotaging the negotiations, the Army is carrying out a military offensive against our positions, betting on a military victory. We hold the Army responsible for any escalation of the war.

[Signed] FMLN General Commmand

[Dated] 1 May 1991, El Salvador.

### Cristiani Rejects FMLN Criticism

*PA0405044091 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] Today President Alfredo Cristiani rejected criticism by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, against the Legislative Assembly's constitutional reforms. Cristiani said the rebels' attitude could jeopardize the negotiating process. The president said he understood that UN Mediator Alvaro De Soto felt the group of constitutional reforms approved by the previous Legislative Assembly did conform to the agreement reached between the parties. Cristiani added that the FMLN has to understand that political parties are free to make their own decisions. Let us hear him:

[Begin Cristiani recording] We spoke with De Soto to brief him on the reforms—both in form and in substance—that the Legislative Assembly was to approve. De Soto's final appraisal was that these reforms complied substantially with the agreements. I understand from the communiques I read this morning that the FMLN does not approve of the additions to the reforms introduced by the political parties. I must say that the FMLN cannot deny the political parties' autonomy and independence to do what they consider convenient. [end recording]

Regarding the upcoming round of talks in Mexico on 6 May, Cristiani stated that advances will surely be made if the FMLN's goodwill continues.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [Words indistinct] signing cease-fire on 10 May?

[Cristiani] We are ready to do so tomorrow [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will to do so immediately or [words indistinct]

[Cristiani] We will have to wait this out. I believe we will probably know if there is really a will to reach a cease-fire at the next meeting. I must say that it does seem the FMLN changed its attitude during the past meeting. We hope the change continues in the upcoming one. The FMLN's attitude at the meeting in Mexico differed from its attitude at previous meetings. [end recording]

The president said the Armed Forces had played an important role in efforts to further the agreements and that this fact should be highlighted because of the country's current situation. The president admitted that the famous confidentiality of the negotiations is gradually disappearing and that the new agreement among Salvadorans will lead to a country without war and with social harmony.

### Resummed Talks 'Probably' in Spain

*PA0305152491 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1208 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said the negotiations with the guerrillas, which will be resumed during the second half of May, will continue to be guided by the principle of confidentiality. Cristiani said that the resumed talks will probably take place in Spain.

He also said that the discussion in Mexico City on constitutional reform was speeded up by the change of legislature in El Salvador. He said the process will continue until a broad peace agreement, the general objective of the negotiations, is reached.

### Modesto Ramirez Front 'Satisfied'

*PA0405014191 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 30 Apr 91 p 24*

[Text] The General Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front is satisfied with the preliminary agreements reached in Mexico by the government and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] delegations. Both delegations met for more than 20 days trying to find points of agreement to end the war.

Damian Alegria, Captain of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front operating in Guazapa Hill, said the insurgents will continue to look to end the war through political means and without neglecting military actions, because the government and the Armed Forces remain intransigent.

"We had to refrain from discussing the issue of the cease-fire and the demarcation of territories," stated Alegria, who appeared calm in the wake of the few or general results obtained at the bargaining table.

The rebel leaders have insisted that, with the results obtained in Mexico, the path to peace through political

means has opened up, adding that this will be the path that will prevail in the months to come.

According to Captain Alegria, who was accompanied by Commanders Chano Guevara, Walter Funes, and Joel Sanchez, the guerrillas will demand specific agreements on the Armed Forces issues and the demarcation of territory during the next round of negotiations, which will take place in Mexico in May.

The rebel commanders in the Guazapa Hill area concluded that, during the next round of negotiations, it will be necessary to reach definite agreements that will give the population a better idea of what both parties are doing to promote peace.

### Cristiani, Arena 'Maneuvering'

*PA0305202691 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 3 May 91*

[Station commentary]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani and the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] deputies' maneuvering of the Mexico agreements constitute a serious and dangerous precedent for the negotiations process. The manner in which they have tampered with the composition of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the length of the Supreme Court's term is a maneuver to perpetuate Arena's control of the state apparatus during the transitional period.

The same thing happened with the reforms to Article 105 regarding the extension of land ownership and Article 248 regarding the constitutional reforms. The same thing happened with the promise to turn the Presidency of the new Legislative Assembly over to the Christian Democratic Party. Arena acted deliberately and arbitrarily.

Can these actions contribute to peace, reconciliation, and national confidence? Without a doubt they cannot. If the negotiations are accepted as the real and reasonable alternative that will end the conflict, the agreements that result—if peace is desired—should be considered by the nation as law. If Arena continues with its maneuvers, which constitute a joke on the nation, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front will reserve the legitimate right to use political and military procedures to correct the militaristic and demanding attitude displayed by that party and its Armed Forces.

We are demanding they change their irresponsible, antinational attitudes because they are hindering a cease-fire agreement. Specific and clear agreements concerning the purging of the Armed Forces, a total end to military impunity, and profound military reform must emerge from the next round of negotiations.

The Geneva agreements and the Caracas agenda clearly establish that only effective previous political agreements can pave the way to armed peace.

### FMLN Guerrillas Attack Cerron Grande Dam

*PA0505185091 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] According to today's military reports, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has inflicted 63 casualties. A total of 43 casualties was inflicted on Army troops at the Cerron Grande Dam, 15 casualties were inflicted on the Second Brigade in Santa Ana Department, four casualties on Military Detachment No. 1 in Chalatenango, and one casualty in the eastern part of the country.

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1647 GMT on 4 May reports: "The Salvadoran Army has confirmed that five soldiers and two rebels were killed and six soldiers were wounded during a 3 May guerrilla attack on the Cerron Grande hydroelectric dam in the northern part of the country. Official sources estimate the damage to the dam at more than $500,000 because a high power transformer was partially destroyed."]

### Coprefa on FMLN Sabotage of Electrical System

*PA0405040191 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 2 May 91 p 2*

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and its squads have continued to sabotage the country's electrical system, the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported yesterday.

Coprefa's communique mentioned the downing of 14 electrical poles in several areas of Usulutan Department, thus increasing the acts of sabotage against vital electrical services.

These actions continue to affect the civilian population because poor people suffer direct consequences, according to Eastern Zone authorities cited by the communique.

One of the attacks took place in the Vista Hermosa neighborhood in the town of Mercedes Umana, where subversives blew up four electrical poles two days ago.

"It is appropriate to say that the FMLN warned, on one occasion, that it would not damage electrical system structures in the cities; nevertheless, facts prove the contrary," the Coprefa communique said.

The communique adds that four additional poles were downed in Canton Montanita, in the outskirts of Mercedes Umana. In addition, the terrorists sabotaged three structures at the Santa Fermina mill in Berlin. The destruction of three poles was also reported at the turnoff to Nueva Granada.

The communique said: The Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission spokesmen reported that the FMLN increased its sabotage against the electrical system this week, particularly in the nation's central and eastern zones. These destructive actions have led to energy rationing measures, they added.

### Court Sentences 3 for 'Zona Rosa Massacre'

*PA0405221491 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] We have a report on the sentencing by the first lower military court in the Zona Rosa case involving Juan Miguel Garcia Melendez, Jose Abraham Dimas Aguilar, and William Celio Rivas Bolanos. Here is the sentence being read by the court's secretary:

[Begin recording] Juan Miguel Garcia Melendez is hereby sentenced to two years for the crime of subversive propaganda distribution and cooperation, three years for subversive association, and six years for planning a terrorist act. Jose Abraham Dimas Aguilar is hereby sentenced to four years for planning a terrorist act; however, he has been acquitted of charges of spreading subversive propaganda and other subversive activities. William Celio Rivas Bolanos is hereby sentenced, in accordance with Article 400 of the penal code, to three years for subversion, two years for subversive propaganda distribution and activities, and 20 years for terrorist acts that resulted in the deaths of several people. [end recording]

The first lower military court secretary said that the accused Juan Miguel Garcia Melendez, Jose Abraham Dimas Aguilar, and William Celio Rivas Bolanos were found guilty of the 19 July 1985 Zona Rosa massacre at the Boulevard El Hipodromo, in which 13 people were killed—including six Americans, one Chilean, one Guatemalan, and five Salvadorans. The guilty are members of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, a party of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

### Soldiers Prosecuted in 1980 Peasant Killings

*PA0305145591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1207 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] According to a Supreme Court of Justice communique, a court west of San Salvador ordered the prosecution of 15 paramilitary men accused of massacring 13 peasants, whose bodies were found more than 10 years ago. The court justified its action by citing sufficient evidence.

The communique says that eight of the accused men are being held in prison while the other seven remain at large. Among those still at large is Commander Belarmino Quila, chief of the civilian defense patrol involved in the crime perpetrated in Los Mangos, department of [words indistinct] between 1980 and 1983.

According to the inquiry, the patrolmen, equipped to kill, slaughtered the peasants with knives and firearms and then dropped the bodies into a well. The victims' skeletons were found years later by Los Mangos residents and authorities.

### CSFR Ties Resumed; Envoy to Portugal Named

*PA0605014691 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 4 May 91 p 5*

[Text] El Salvador has resumed diplomatic relations with former socialist bloc nations, according to Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas. Pacas noted that relations with these nations had been broken after World War II, when Soviet troops invaded them.

Pacas added that Czechoslovakia—until last year behind the Iron Curtain—is one of the first nations with which relations have been resumed.

The foreign minister said Ana Cristiani Solcomo has been appointed ambassador to Portugal. This is an important step as Portugal is member of the EEC, which is currently granting technical and economic assistant to Central America, Pacas noted.

The foreign minister reported that Ricardo Castaneda has been appointed ambassador to Luxembourg.

Pacas said these appointments are part of the Salvadoran Government's plans to have diplomatic relations with a large number of nations.

The foreign minister made these statements shortly after receiving a 1,000-metric ton donation of rice from Taiwan.

## Guatemala

### Air Force General Shot, Killed Near Capital

*PA0305190891 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 May 91 p 56*

[Text] General Anacleto Maza Castellanos was shot to death last night as he was leaving the home of relatives he had been visiting at No. 12-50 on 16th Street in Zone 11 of the Loma Linda neighborhood near Guatemala City.

Preliminary reports indicate that two men in a pickup truck were waiting for Maza Castellanos to leave. As he left the house and prepared to enter his vehicle he was shot and one of his assailants stole his vehicle. The second attacker fled in the pickup the two attackers had been waiting in.

Relatives of the victim drove him in a private vehicle to the military hospital where he died a few minutes later.

Gen. Anacleto Maza Castellanos was a native of Peten. He held important posts, including director of Aviateca Airlines and the Military Geographic Institute, commander of the Guatemalan Air Force (FAG), and military attache in Washington.

### New Internal Security Minister Sworn In

*PA0405151991 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 3 May 91 p3*

[Text] Fernando Hurtado Prem, former assistant attorney general for human rights, has taken office as a government minister. He appointed former penal Judge Cesar Augusto Villalta Perez as his first vice minister.

President Jorge Serrano Elias swore in the new official in charge of internal security, and noted Hurtado's work in the Attorney General's Office for human rights and in the State Council. The president said he regards him as the appropriate person to attempt to end abuses of authority and violations of the fundamental rights of Guatemalans.

The government is determined not to cover up for anyone and to punish transgressors of the law, the president stated. Serrano Elias rejected the murder of politician Dinora Perez Valdez, calling it an inhuman attack by those who want to derail the government's peace efforts.

Upon taking office, Hurtado said his only commitment is to consolidate the rule of law and to guarantee that Guatemalans can exercise their freedoms. He also stated crimes will be punished according to law.

"There is no reason why the law should exist for those who have nothing, while it is not enforced against those who have a lot," the new minister said, adding justice will be applied without repression.

"There will be no strategies to repress labor or trade unions because our actions will fall within the law, which will be equally applied to all Guatemalans," he noted.

### Student Leaders Arrested After Protests

*PA0505025791 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Apr 91 p 4*

[Report by Rony Ivan Veliz]

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 April—Forty-one leaders of the Coordinating Board for Secondary School Students, CEEM, were arrested in the past 48 hours. At the Attorney General's Office for human rights, who will intercede with the education minister on the students' behalf, CEEM leader Victor Corzo complained that the students were arrested after requesting the education minister's resignation.

Corzo explained that the students were demonstrating to demand the resignation of the education minister and the release of eight leaders of the Computer Science Student Association, who were arrested by members of the civil protection system on 23 April as they boarded a bus on Route Three. Riot police arrested 33 students on 25 April during a protest demonstration.

Corzo added that some of the individuals arrested on 25 April have been identified as Julio Delgado, of the Rafael Aqueche Institute; Orlando Carrazo, of the men's normal central school; and Alfredo Estupina, of the advisory board of the CEEM and president of the student association at the Men's Central Institute.

Nineth Montenegro de Garcia, president of the Mutual Support Group, GAM, reported that student leaders from Commercial Science School No. 1 were arrested on 24 April on charges of belonging to ring of car thieves. She added that these charges are absolutely false.

Nineth de Garcia explained that GAM is requesting that the appropriate authorities release the arrested student leaders, labor leader Otto Ivan Rodriguez Banegas, and GAM member Candelaria Bocel Mejia. Garcia added that the GAM requested mediation by the human rights attorney general, who said that he will ask the education minister to resolve the different school problems and the student bonus issue.

## Honduras

### President Callejas Grants News Conference

*PA0305150191 Tegucigalpa Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0309 GMT 30 Apr 91*

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with local television media directors at the Blue Room of the Presidential Palace, moderated by unidentified Presidential Press Secretariat official—live]

[Excerpts] [Callejas] Honduran people, dear compatriots, and directors of televised newscasts: It is important to once again stand before the Honduran people. I have not granted an official televised news conference since October primarily because certain situations around the world were commanding our attention during that long period. One of the situations I refer to is the Persian Gulf conflict which distorted the outlook of not only Honduras, but of all nations around the world.

In light of the uncertainty created by that violent disruption, it was very difficult for me to come before you and speak without knowing what decisions and developments were going to result from that conflict. Today, with that conflict behind us, I again come before you to present my agenda and opinions, and to answer questions having to do with government programs and actions that I have been honored to lead, by the will of the Honduran people, for almost 15 months of this administration.

I must tell you that on this occasion, as compared to other times and as a result of all the time that has passed, I will answer questions from various media directors, specifically, the representatives of the televised media; they, on your behalf, will pose their respective questions.

Before giving the floor to the distinguished representatives here with me tonight, I wish to say that on one occasion, from the Blue Room of the Presidential Palace, I told the Honduran people that when warranted by the

situation, and in accordance with the Consumer Protection Law, we would apply fines in defense of the Honduran people; and that I would inform the nation when—unfortunately, because of violations of the law—certain persons or companies were liable to a fine of 500,000 lempiras for violating the Consumer Protection Law.

This is why tonight I report to the Honduran people that the government of the Republic, in demanding compliance with the provisions of that legislation, last week levied the first 500,000-lempiras fine against a consortium of San Pedro Sula companies involved in the production and sale of sugar. In this regard, I am again delivering to the Honduran people by demanding, by legal mandate, compliance with the provisions that aim to defend the nation's consumers.

After having said these words, I will now ask the distinguished journalists here to share any questions that you, as representatives of the Honduran people, might have tonight.

To my compatriots I reiterate my gratitude for the tolerance, patience, and goodwill that they have shown me during my many visits to the countryside and our main cities since the last time I granted a radio and television news conference.

[Moderator] Carlos Riel of the "This Very Day" newscast.

[Riel] Mr. President, in opportunities like this it is important to let the Honduran people know your position regarding the most controversial and sensitive issue of the past 48 hours: The strike threat by the STENEE [National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers Union] over personnel cuts, increased electricity rates, and the issue of privatization. How would the government tackle this problem should a general strike be called?

[Callejas] To tell you the truth, I do not think there is any justification for STENEE to call for a general strike. Why? Because just a few days ago I met with the United Federation of Honduran Workers [FUTH] and their legal advisers to determine the true cause of an action like this. In many instances, the government has said that ENEE [National Enterprise for Electric Power] will not be privatized. Consequently, this is no reason to call for a strike. Second, the government weighed holding talks with different unions, specifically with STENEE, on the most appropriate means to reduce the budget—this is what circumstances require to deal with the financial problems of an insolvent and bankrupt enterprise—and to temporarily reduce personnel by mutual agreement. That means we met at the government's initiative to discuss this topic.

Third, the question of the electricity rates. We will discuss this subject tonight and probably on other occasions. I want to say that we are conducting a thorough study with an auditor's firm to determine the effect and impact on the lower-income sectors of the rate we proposed and applied last year. We will appear before the Honduran people with this report to clarify the reality of this rate implementation. I think that it is irresponsible to create a negative climate just because it is supposed that there might be an impact on the lower-income classes, especially considering the few alternatives left for the enterprise. Because of this, we think the STENEE's call for a strike is unwarranted. It is not justified. We are willing to talk and the people's interests are being met. I am telling the labor union members that wisdom and dialogue are always the best alternatives.

[Guevara] Rosana Guevara of Dicanoticias. Good evening. Mr. President, when will Honduras tell the international finance organizations that it is impossible to keep placing burdens on a people as poor as ours? Why is your government so yielding when it comes to these organizations? Why is so much sacrifice demanded from the people only to achieve international credibility? Why does the government not try to first acquire international credibility? Why does the government not first try to acquire internal, rather than international credibility?

[Callejas] First of all, we are developing a program where international financing constitutes one of the variables required by the country to generate alternatives for economic development. Honduras cannot exist without foreign exchange, U.S. dollars, a strong currency. There are three ways to obtain it. One, through exports, which we are developing. I am pleased to report to the Honduran people that we will export 52 million boxes of bananas this year. This figure represents 9 million more boxes than we exported in 1990, and 10 million more boxes than in 1972.

This is our first year of true, effective increases in banana exports. This growth entails more than $50 million worth of additional exports. Nevertheless, the country's yearly foreign exchange demand exceeds $600 million. Consequently, these exports, which can optimistically increase $100 million this year and perhaps another $200 million by the end of my presidential term, still leave us short some $400 million. From where can we get these funds? From international donations. There are countries, like Japan and the United States, that donate resources to us. This, however, leaves us with a deficit of approximately $400 million. Where can this money come from? From only two sources. One, from very patriotic Hondurans with bank accounts abroad who are willing to bring that money back to the country. Two, from preferential loans. What does this mean?

Rosana, Honduran people. The loans we are getting to finance our development have a 40-year term, a 10-year grace period, and three quarters of one percent interest. What better conditions could we have? It is important for us to secure loans from international organizations. This is our program. I want to tell you and the Honduran people that the terms of the agreement we are concluding with the IMF are probably the best possible for any one country. The loan conditions do not even consider direct taxes on the people or negative decisions that might

seriously affect the population. Our program's fundamental decisions are not fiscal and do not deal with new taxes. Instead, they deal with the reorganization of the autonomous institutions' finances. Of course, this has had a complex effect and, according to some sectors, represents an increase in Hondutel [Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise] rates. There has only been one tax, however. The sales tax has been increased from 5 to 7 percent.

Therefore, I would say that our plan is not only viable, authentic, and nationalistic, but also based on precise economic definitions, in accordance with our national interests. We do not yield to international institutions. We have made specific proposals. In this agreement with the IMF, our people will see the extraordinary and positive ability of Honduran negotiators in dealing with international institutions.

[Adolfo Hernandez, of Televisora Hondurena] Good evening Mr. President and television viewers. Mr. President: I would have liked to talk more about the STENEE problem, which I feel is very important, and I hope we will have more time later on to continue discussing that subject. Coincidentally, in October 1990 we attended a news conference, at a time when the government was also confronting labor problems with the STENEE workers union.

Along the same line of thought as my colleague Roxana Guevara, who asked a very interesting question, you mentioned a very important point. You said that your Chicago boys are good negotiators. The problem is that in Honduras, many things are said behind the scenes, and sometimes journalists are misled. I would like to ask you before five million Hondurans who are listening to you over radio and television if it is true that the members of the economic cabinet headed by the president of the Central Bank of Honduras took it upon themselves to draft a structural economic adjustment plan. That plan was proposed to you and to the Congress, was approved, and was presented to the international institutions. However, although the international organizations congratulated us for the plan, they rejected it and instead presented their own proposals. This made it necessary to make new adjustments, including an initial devaluation of 4.30 and then 5.30 to the dollar. Mr. President, this has been commented on in diplomatic circles and high-level economic sectors in private and public enterprises. I think that this is a good chance for you to tell us if it is true that the boys in the economic cabinet acted too hastily and committed a terrible mistake.

[Callejas] Adolfo Hernandez, reporter of the "This Very Day" newscast. What you have just said is entirely groundless. We have developed our own program in line with the Honduran situation and we went to the international organizations to request their support for our program. They deemed the program appropriate, they supported the program, and they continue to support it. In that sense, I must make it absolutely clear to the Honduran people that we have our own government program and that whether or not it had the support of international organizations, it would still have been carried out following basically the same or similar pattern. We are creating a free society, a society of opportunities that will permit the country to again have economic growth. The models of the past were not in line with the country's reality and they led to terrible poverty. We, on the contrary, defined our decisions and we acted accordingly. We did not invent these decisions. [passage omitted] That is the important thing about the program I am carrying out, meaning that we have cut expenses to generate savings, because investments are only possible by generating savings—and economic development is only achieved with investment.

What I have here are historical documents in which an economic thesis similar to the one we are implementing is definitely handled appropriately and correctly. Why was it not carried out? Due to a lack of political willingness. We did it and then we went to the international organizations, not vice versa, and this has allowed us to create the conditions that will give Honduras the opportunity to grow again, as I have already shown with some of the banana export figures I mentioned. Thus, we will be able to overcome the prostration which we have been in for 10 long years. [passage omitted]

[Francisco Mejia, reporter of the "Opening a Breach" television newscast and HABLEMOS CLARO magazine] Mr. President, I feel that your government policy is completely dominated by economic issues and although one day you may solve the nation's foreign debt problem with this policy, it has now triggered the social debt's uncontrolled growth. There are some mechanisms, such as the [words indistinct], designed to try to solve this problem. Nevertheless, we note that—in an attempt to reduce the deficit—the health and education sectors' budget reduction is being endorsed, while the Armed Forces' budget remains untouched. Meanwhile, although the Armed Forces claims that its budget has been reduced by 35 percent over the past few years, because they have not received a budget increase in lempiras, they do however receive substantial military aid from abroad in dollars. This aid was previously exchanged at two lempiras per dollar and currently it is worth 5.30 lempiras per dollar. Do you not believe, Mr. President, that it is time for the government to start redistributing the large revenues it has obtained through its deficit reduction program?

[Callejas] Francisco Mejia, of "Opening a Breach," I agree with you, and undoubtedly a vast majority of the Honduran people, that there is an enormous social debt to be paid. How much is the social debt that the Honduran Governments must pay their people?

When I assumed the Presidency, seven out of 10 Hondurans lived in extreme poverty; just one out of 100 Hondurans is a university graduate.

The social debt represents huge economic costs. It is necessary to have money to resolve the social debt. The

needs of a people cannot be resolved without money and to have money, the state, through the government, must secure a healthy financial situation.

The problem has not been a lack of resources. This year the Armed Forces are receiving $21 million in military aid. During the decade that the irregular contra forces were in our territory, we unconditionally received $1 billion from the U.S. Government. How was this money spent? On operating expenses, on wages and salaries for public employees.

How are we going to pay a social debt if the country's production is used to pay the state's operating expenses, which do not generate wealth, but consume wealth? And the wealth vanishes? This is what we are trying to correct.

We have reduced the expenditures of the Education Ministry and the Health Ministry, not the investment programs. We have regulations, but still you see vehicles that belong to state institutions roaming the streets, burning fuel for which the Honduran people must pay. This has to be reduced.

It is impressive to know that half of each lempira our economy produces goes to pay government expenditures. No other country in the world is in this situation. We all have heard about the crisis in Peru. Well, in Peru, only 18 centimos of every budgeted sucre [as heard] is used to pay government expenditures. In Honduras between 43 and 49 centavos of every lempira is used for government. We must reduce expenditures and operating expenses, and we must transfer those resources to investments, to the Honduran Social Investment Fund, to offices that directly implement programs such as the Mother, Head of the Family program. This program has permitted a 25-percent increase in primary school registrations in Lempira and Intibuca Departments. This is without precedent in the history of those two departments. School registrations increased by 25 percent thanks to a social improvement program.

We have to build houses. We are already reaching levels that will allow us to implement large housing programs and to invest in roads.

A short time ago, the communications, public works, and transportation minister told me that he received a letter and a telephone call from a prominent Honduran attorney. The attorney asked him how, if the country is enduring a crisis, the government can invest in road maintenance. The minister then asked him a question that I will now ask the Honduran people: Why were the roads not given proper maintenance when we supposedly had resources?

We function with austerity and extraordinary fiscal discipline. My responsibility is to watch for the people's equity.

The Armed Forces have had a real budget cut. Their $21 million is not for Armed Forces operations, but to pay the debt due for U.S. material aid. We are paying for airplanes out of the $21 million, money that is not used to pay salaries, or for fuel, or for transportation. This money is earmarked to pay an installment of the $86 million loan that Honduras, at one point in its history, used to buy F-5 airplanes. We pay that with U.S. loans and donations.

We should be aware that as long as we have a professional Armed Force in Honduras, our sovereignty is guaranteed. This has a price, a price that is relatively low in Honduras, compared to what it is in the Central American region. Honduras has the smallest Armed Forces in Central America, Costa Rica included. There are more armed elements in Costa Rica—which does not have an Army, but has a police force—than in Honduras. Costa Rica has 11,000 more armed units than Honduras. Our Armed Forces budget is restricted to fit the sovereign needs of the country.

We are still helping the health and education sectors. All the schools are being rebuilt with funds from the Honduran Social Investment Fund. The latrine-construction program is being carried out through the Honduran Social Investment Fund, as you know. What we are saying is: Let us invest less on whatever does not produce anything. Let us make investments so that the country may have a more solid economic base.

[Soriano] Mr. President, good evening. People of Honduras, good evening. Jose Emilio Soriano of the "Forum" program broadcast by VICA and a new program called "Analysis," with which we will be informing the Honduran people. Mr. President, it seems that we all had the same idea: Talk about economic issues. I will try to avoid it a bit to talk about something that we have recently heard that seems important. The DEA, the U.S. anti-drug organization, has violated our sovereignty. Is that not right? It has violated our sovereignty. That is definite. You have personally recognized this. However, it seems that we also face a similar threat, meaning another violation of our sovereignty.

The infamous Nicaraguan counterrevolution, which operated in that country in recent years, meaning the past decade, seems to be arming itself again. Mr. President, could we possibly again become a sanctuary for the armed Nicaraguans who perpetrated the worst violations against the country's sovereignty; who cost the Honduran people so much bloodshed and so many deaths; who affected our economy so much; who even meddled in our politics; and who will definitely tend to come to Honduras? Is the country, and your government, prepared to prevent a similar situation given that they are arming themselves again because they oppose some of Mrs. Chamorro's actions in Nicaragua?

[Callejas] Jose Emilio Soriano, of the "Forum" and "Analysis" programs. I was honored to address the people on 18 April 1990, as president of Honduras, in an act of sovereignty that fills me with deep pride. My address included two words: Never again. Never ever

will our territory serve as the means for attacking or as a refuge for irregular military forces that initiate conflicts and bloodshed in the Central American region. Never again. With all the authority, will, and political power bestowed on me by the Presidency of the Republic, I tell you, and the Honduran people, that never again will this occur in my government. [passage omitted]

[Guevara] Going back to the issue of the international financial organizations, over the next three years these institutions will disburse $1.35 billion to our country. What will be the social cost of these disbursements—in addition to the social costs already paid—to the Honduran people?

[Callejas] Given existing conditions, the financing and subsequent social benefits that we have managed to obtain for Honduras have been quite extraordinary. Honduras' foreign debt has been manageable.

What is the Paris Club? It is a group of credit organizations and countries that have loaned money to us: Germany, the United States, Japan, France, Italy, and Spain. Honduras owes money to these countries. What has Honduras requested of the Paris Club? Honduras has asked for two things: first, to refinance our debt; second, to have part of that debt forgiven. In 1990, thanks to our efforts, $187 million of Honduran debt was forgiven. What is the cost of this to society? There is no cost to society, because the refinancing terms with the previously mentioned friendly countries now permit 10 percent of our foreign debt to be paid toward protecting the environment and aiding the health and education sectors. Therefore, of every $100 million we pay the Paris Club, $10 million comes back to us in the form of aid for the health, education, and housing sectors, as well as the environment. What we have really done—I am very pleased in this respect—is to restructure the Honduran debt. We changed the foreign debt from a short-term debt that overwhelmed the country, to a debt that will be paid back over 40 years, with a 10-year grace period, and an interest rate of three quarters of one percent. In addition, 10 percent of the old debt has been forgiven and donated to the Honduran people. Thus, the social cost of this new period is minimal, while that of the old period was enormous. This is the situation that I have had to face as president of the Republic.

[Adolfo Hernandez] I said previously that the issue concerning ENEE was an important factor during the October conference. We will shortly learn the position adopted by organized labor, particularly the members of FUTH. You said in your first address that ENEE was an insolvent and bankrupt company. In addition, you said that the strike was illegal since no conditions existed to merit a strike. We have defended ENEE's position because their interests, as a part of the government, are also the interests of the Honduran people. It now turns out that the situation has reversed because the STENEE has denounced the government for trying to increase rates by up to 50 percent. This move has no support from the Honduran people, especially because your government has let others criticize it and it has not defended your energy policy. That is, government officials are talking about a 50-percent increase in the ENEE rates. You told us before that the increases were to be levied only on those people who consumed more energy. This time nothing has been said, which has caused discontent among the people.

During the course of the day, we have received many calls to request that you, on behalf of the Honduran people, clarify this situation. However, from October until today the problems at ENEE continue. To quickly go over the history of the problem, many energy consumers had to pay for the strike because the authorities did not read electric meters and had to estimate the energy bills. You should not think that I am opposed to the labor union, but I really think that the union has indeed caused many problems for the development of the ENEE. The union has not denounced what it should have when it is in its best interest. However, they are now threatening to begin a strike that will affect us all. I wanted to focus on your statements that there were no grounds for the strike. Would you categorize this strike as illegal? Second, how will your government resolve the many problems at ENEE?

[Callejas] Mr. Hernandez, there is no strike. Since there is no strike, there is no reason for me to comment on the legality or illegality of that issue. I want to be very clear, because I am often concerned over how my statements are interpreted. There is no strike. We are holding talks with the STENEE. The meeting between the labor union representatives and the ENEE administration just ended two hours ago. Thus, if there is dialogue we must promote it.

Perhaps, as in many other cases, the government is in a difficult position to convince the people who may believe that there will be an increase in rates. As I said earlier in answer to a question, we have hired an independent auditing company to conduct a survey to determine the exact effect of collecting these rates from the poorer segments of society.

These sectors were not going to be subjected to higher rates. I want to know the results of this survey. It is my duty and responsibility to present this report to the Honduran people and make it public. We see that 52 percent of consumer complaints registered against ENEE concern misread electric meters. We should be concerned about this. Why do five out of 10 consumers complain that their meter readings are incorrect? I want to know the answer to this just as much as the media and the average Honduran. Once we have all the pertinent information we will report to the people on the amount of the required rate increase, the timing of this increase, and which sectors of the population will be most affected by that increase. We will continue to apply a rate that will not affect the real monthly income of the poor. We

cannot afford to establish an increase in rates that will have a negative effect on the population. Here, on this idea, I share your views.

Under these circumstances and in due time, we are willing to share this information with all sectors across the country. We are not opposed to listening. Suddenly, what happens is groundless speculation. It is not true that we are going to increase electricity rates by 50 percent. This is absolutely false. It is simply not true.

To speak of a 50-percent increase is to hail the positions of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, because that is what they demanded of us. In that specific case, they demanded a 73-percent rate increase, and the note that the president of ENEE sent them strongly rejected that position saying we do not agree. We do not agree and we will not increase the rates by 50 percent or any amount close to that. [passage omitted]

ENEE is an insolvent company; it is bankrupt. If the problem is not taken care of the economic and social cost for Honduras will be enormous. Therefore, as administrator of the Republic of Honduras I have the responsibility of making a decision on the matter. I must search for solutions to the ENEE problem, and I am, but not at the levels that have been stated—there cannot be a 50-percent rate increase. We will present those solutions before the various forums and unions. Today, we spoke with the Tegucigalpa Chamber of Commerce and Industry; tomorrow, with the National Industrialists Association; the day after that, with various social organizations.

There is nothing hidden in these accords, commitments, or decisions. What we want is to be understood. We want everyone to be aware that to resolve ENEE's problems, the government must provide it with money or else the people will be left to make up the difference. Where does the state get the money that Congress administers? It gets it from taxes.

Unfortunately, we are caught in an economic circle, and I am aware of this. However, I have to make the decisions for my government to face ENEE's economic crisis, for the benefit of the Honduran people.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, you talk about promptly solving ENEE's problems. I want to tell you and the people that the central government, including the Ministry of Defense and Public Security, and other autonomous institutions, already in 1991 owe ENEE 152 million lempiras. Now, let us take a look at the foreign companies that operate in the country. For example, the mining company that operates in Mochito owes ENEE 2 million lempiras so far in 1991. [passage omitted] We also have to keep in mind that these foreign companies get a preferential rate at ENEE and, despite this, they do not pay. How can you explain this, Mr. President? How can you explain the debt of the central government, the Standard Fruit Company, and Minerales Mochito? Don't you believe that if you took strict measures, just as you were saying a while ago, we would solve the debt problem without having to increase the rates to the general public? Why is it that the people have to be burdened with higher rates? Why are foreign companies and multinational corporations subsidized? They have enough resources to pay. Why do you subsidize them and not the general public? Perhaps another solution to the problem could be to increase rates we charge the various Central American countries that buy electricity from Honduras.

[Callejas] Of course, I fully agree with you and this is what we are implementing. In the last rate adjustment the subsidies to Tela, Standard, and American Pacific were eliminated. They pay the rate stipulated for the amount of electricity they use. These firms do not receive any subsidies. I can only tell you that I agree with your position precisely because it is the one held by government. The subsidies that exist are for the lower income sectors. These sectors are justifiably subsidized. Tela, Standard, and the firm that manages the Mochito mine used to be subsidized. I recall that a former president-elect negotiated a very bad contract with American Pacific and granted them huge subsidies and bargain rates on electricity. We have corrected that mistake. This is no longer so. Now they pay us what is due. Furthermore, their debt with ENEE has decreased considerably. The figures you give are probably right but correspond to a month's bill for electricity. One month. A million lempiras for Mochito is a month's use. Two million lempiras for Tela and Standard is a month's use. In terms of debt, this is nothing. The firms are up to date.

We have also recovered the debt owed by Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Furthermore, we have adjusted and corrected the electricity rates these countries pay and now we require that they present letters of credit. We no longer sign a simple agreement that says they can pay when they want. To sell electricity to Nicaragua we require a letter of credit opened and filed with ENEE. Healthy finances. However, this does not resolve the problem because other government institutions have outstanding debts with ENEE, such as Cementos de Honduras which owes more than 60 million lempiras. How can we get Cementos de Honduras to pay ENEE? They could pay in cement bags but this is not enough. The problem is structural. It is true that the government owes ENEE but it also transfers money to it. The difference between what the government gives ENEE and what it owes it—I do not have the figures right now as you do— but the fact is that we transferred 300 million lempiras to ENEE last year, and have continued doing so this year. We have transferred funds to them in recognition of the debt. What I mean is that ENEE is the government's main problem. This is true to the point that ENEE is the only public firm that did not show a profit last year or this year. With the exception of ENEE, all the rest made money. We are correcting the problems by implementing the measures that I have mentioned to you. These firms are not subsidized. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Reporter] Mr. President, a few minutes ago you mentioned patriotic Honduran businessmen

who wished to bring back or repatriate their capital. What will happen if the capital is not returned and the flight of capital continues? What will you do to bring back the capital, which was born and grown in this country?

[Callejas] We made a proposal and the congress passed laws for the repatriation of foreign exchange. What is the result? I ask this because sometimes when we provide the information, there are some sectors that do not believe the information. The Finance Ministry has fined 176 companies for $3 million, 17 million lempiras, because they have yet to repatriate $9.8 million. This is the amount that remains to be repatriated, because foreign exchange has been returning to the country at a high rate. I remember that on one occasion when I was talking to you in a news conference, I said that foreign exchange was not returning to Honduras. As of now, only $9.8 million have not been returned according to the deadline set by law. We have fined those 176 companies 17 million lempiras. We have to say that the government is enforcing the law. Those who do not bring back the foreign exchange are being fined. They are seriously and immediately fined. They stopped bringing $9.8 million, we are fining them $3 million. In this regard, my government is strictly enforcing the law, and we are going to continue to enforce it in such a manner so that he who exports his products and does not bring back the foreign exchange will be punished according to the law.

[Reporters] Are the names going to be made known, Mr. President?

[Callejas] You will know them. We have sent a bulletin to the Finance Ministry and it will make the names available to the journalists. I believe it is the proper time to tell you and the Honduran people that if someone has been unfairly treated, he has the right to defend himself. We are not punishing people with a whip for procedural mistakes. It is a clear message. He who violates the law [changes thought].... We fined a company that was involved in sugar profiteering 500,000 lempiras. We fined those who did not repatriate their foreign exchange 17 million lempiras. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Regarding the ENEE's privatization and some other related activities, such as the distribution and commercialization of the electric energy industry, would the government take up the costs of generating energy?

[Callejas] The government's plans do not include any such plans at this time. Privatization plans for the distribution and generation of electric energy is not a short or medium-term alternative for the public administration. Such a thing will depend on a concerted effort. In some areas, we will gradually make decisions in the sense that services from the interconnected network might be rendered by private enterprises, cooperatives, and the like. There are some examples of such an arrangement. In Guanaja, there is a private cooperative that generates and distributes electricity. But, for the time being, any alternatives to the interconnected system, including El Cajon and Rio Lindo, are unsuitable.

[Reporter] Mr. President, the most recent report on human rights in Honduras is very critical of your government, in particular accusing it of not taking any action. Apparently, there are political groups in the country that still use arms to settle their disagreements. This seems to be indicated by the number of people wounded or killed for political reasons. What is the government doing regarding human rights?

[Callejas] If there is one thing I feel very proud of as president, it is the policy aimed at avoiding human rights violations in the Republic of Honduras. Not a single person has been reported missing during my term of office. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] This is the final question for the president. Will Honduras win the case at the International Court of Justice [ICJ]? El Salvador is apparently using a great display of international publicity in an attempt to win the case. What is our position? Thank you for your (?time), Mr. President.

[Callejas] This is an important and central issue for the nation. What will happen at the ICJ trial? Perhaps the best answer was given by our former representative at The Hague: We will get what by law is ours. No more, no less. The court will issue a ruling based on the law. What is ours by law is what we will get.

I would say that in that aspect, since sovereignty and nationalism are intense and just passions, we must be aware that there is a correct, juridical proposal on Honduras' thesis. That thesis, in what is juridically correct, will render the correct result for Honduras.

However, we need not attempt to generate either unwarranted expectations and optimism or pessimism. We must act cautiously and with the awareness that there will be a result and that we must accept that result because it is so established in the agreement we signed many years ago.

[Reporter] Mr. President, in the political field, will you be the National Party's great elector? Yes or no?

[Callejas] No. The great elector will be the nationalist people.

[Reporter] If you are not, what will happen to government employees who are already getting involved in politics?

[Callejas] Those who are already involved—none of them are, but those who may do so—will be asked to resign immediately. Ranking officials in my government, ministers of state, and managers of autonomous institutions who may get involved in politics and support any presidential hopeful, have no reason to remain in my government.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President.

## Callejas on Electricity Workers Union Strike

*PA0405012291 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondurena Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 May 91*

[Report by Javier Mendoza—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The presidential agenda for 2 May was filled with complaints against the executive branch. Transportation workers threatened to strike if their demands are not met. In the afternoon the president received $4 million.

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas met today with different sectors—including the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry, the Bar Association, and the National Congress—and discussed the National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers' Union [STENEE] strike. These were his comments.

[Callejas] "The only chance we have to solve the problem is to coordinate the situations we must discuss. This case is an excellent opportunity for one of the most belligerent unions in the country, the STENEE, to discuss and study with the government the possibility of avoiding these untimely strikes, which worsen the situation. Our position is that this must be handled with great care. We believe the strike was very hasty."

Proposals were presented both by the government and the labor union, but no results were achieved that would end the strike. Perhaps the agreements will be signed tomorrow. A confidential source assured the Hoy Mismo newscast that the percentage of the increase in electrical energy tariffs will be revealed tomorrow afternoon; adding that the increase is below 50 percent, and it will only affect the country's wealthy. The percentage could range between 5 and 15 percent of current charges; nevertheless, the official figures will be given tomorrow.

The president's worries are not centered only on the strike. He also met with representatives of the northwestern transportation sector, which demands a trust fund of more than 50 million lempiras from the government. The current fund—which does not cover the northwestern transportation sector, only the central transportation sector—totals 18.5 million lempiras. If the total amount is approved, it would rise to 68.5 million lempiras; but if the government does not accept, the representatives have threatened to declare a strike. Nevertheless, the negotiations have again been postponed—this time until 8 May.

[Unidentified speaker] "We ask that the trust fund be increased so that we can have access to loans under softer and longer terms."

In the afternoon the president signed a $4 million loan agreement. The funds will be used to build and improve roads. The credit was granted by OPEC.

[Callejas] "[Words indistinct] willingness to cooperate and state their solidarity for the development of our nation. I share the view that we have embarked on the correct road, and the willingness to continue down that road will imply a better [words indistinct] for our society."

## FPR States Position on National Situation

*PA0505171991 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Apr 91 p 45*

[Paid advertisement by the Lorenzo Zelaya People's Revolutionary Forces, FPR, entitled: "Let us Struggle to Democratize Honduras," issued in Honduras in April 1991]

[Text] On 30 April we will commemorate the 26th anniversary of the El Jute massacre, where a courageous and upright group of workers and peasants were killed opposing the military and oligarchic dictatorship of that time in a struggle for a better fatherland. Peasant Lorenzo Zelaya, leader of the proletariat, stands out among them, as he along with our national heroes Lempira and Morazan have inspired the struggle of the Lorenzo Zelaya People's Revolutionary Forces for more than 10 years. Within the framework of this important anniversary, we deemed it necessary to announce our stance on the current situation in Honduras and Central America.

### The Central American Peoples in the Struggle for Democratization and Demilitarization

After more than 10 years of war caused by the policy of starvation, dependency, repression, exploitation, and lack of democracy imposed by U.S. domination and oligarchic groups and by the meddling of the U.S. Government, the most tragic consequences of which have been the destruction of the economy and the environment and the deaths of approximately 200,000 Central Americans, the peoples of the region are firmly heading toward the democratization and demilitarization of their respective societies through the process of dialogue and negotiation. Although these processes of dialogue or negotiation are resisted by certain oligarchic sectors and their armed forces, who are unwilling to renounce even a few of their numerous privileges, we hope the interests and reason of the peoples of Central America will prevail for the sake of political self-determination, social justice, and democratization in Central America.

In this respect we express our solidarity with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) in their efforts to find a politically negotiated solution to the armed conflicts in their respective countries. In addition, we express our goodwill toward the democratization process in Nicaragua, an undeniable achievement of the Nicaraguan people and their Sandinist revolution.

**The Honduran People Are Experiencing a Difficult Moment**

Over the course of the past decades, our people have been bearing the heavy burden of U.S. domination and the structural crisis of dependent capitalism. This situation has meant unemployment, malnutrition, poor health, suffering, poverty, foreign occupation, and repression.

This grave situation has become worse now with the implementation of a neoliberal economic policy by the Leonardo Callejas government, which has taken the dictates of international financial organizations: the IMF, World Bank, Agency for International Development, all of which are controlled by the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie.

The "economic structural reorgnization law" or "unfair economic package" has increased poverty, extreme poverty, unemployment, and the cost of living of our country's masses.

The current situation of the people of Honduras is so critical that the UN Development Program has said that 68 percent of our population of 4.5 million lives under conditions of extreme poverty, that is, 3,000,060 Hondurans.

Out of this amount, 2 million live in conditions of poverty, which means they earn less than 100 lempiras a month; an amount insufficient for basic needs. And, more than 600,000 Hondurans are in the extreme poverty category because their monthly income does not cover the food they require. This is a vivid and pathetic picture of the unjust and excluding system in which we live.

The only ones who have benefited from the "unfair economic package" have been the international financial organizations, the U.S. multinational corporations (banana and mining sectors), and the big exporters, merchants, bankers, and industrialists. They have benefited at the expense of the Honduran people's hunger and pain.

Simultaneously, the current government has been implementing a demagogic and repressive policy against the people's movement to confuse and disorganize the people's struggle. The government has attacked unions and installed parallel unions; it has fired union leaders and workers in general; it has declared a state of siege in conflictive regions to deny the workers' rights, as occurred during the Sitraterco [Trade Union of Tela Railroad Company Workers] strike; it has violently removed peasants from land they justly and legitimately occupied; the army has broken into work centers during strikes; the government has created bonds for single mothers, which in no way solves the most urgent needs of humble families in urban areas; it has created temporary jobs through the FHIS [Honduran Social Investment Fund], which are only for a few days or weeks; it has delivered as a "gift" one notebook per student in the public sector. Those are the salient aspects of the government's policy.

We must also note that, even though less conspicuously, violations of human rights have continued, as well as political murders, homicides as a result of abuse of authority, illegal detentions, and disrespect for legal rights.

President Callejas has promised that 1991 will be the year of social compensation. However, what can be seen on the horizon is a new "unfair economic package" against the people, reduction of the health, education, and agrarian reform budgets; increase in the electricity tariffs, more taxes, more dismissals in the public sector, and a new devaluation of the lempira. In other words, the social compensation offered is becoming another unfulfilled promise by the current government.

In sum, by implementing the "unfair economic package," the current National Party (PNH) government is violating the Honduran people's fundamental economic and social rights, condemning them to poverty and extreme poverty, and deteriorating as never before their already miserable standard of living. The same applies for political rights, as the repression of the just struggles carried out by the grass roots movements in defending their achievements and standard of living is rampant.

Despite the critical socioeconomic and political situation affecting the people, we do not believe that those problems can be solved through an armed struggle.

Revolutionary men are not violent fanatics. However, the selfish interests of the imperialists and the ruling class, plus the existence of dictatorial, unjust, repressive, and antidemocratic regimes, have forced us and the peoples of the world to engage in armed struggles through this century.

The "Lorenzo Zelaya" FPR firmly believes that what Honduras needs today is to incorporate all political forces, without exception, into the civic struggle for building a democratic, multipartisan society with political self-deterination and social justice.

The neoliberal plan imposed by the international financial organizations, which is causing so much pain and suffering for the people, can only be successfully countered with an alternative democratic, popular, and patriotic plan within the framework of a civil struggle promoted by all of the country's popular, patriotic, and progressive forces.

**We Demand To Live in a Democratic Society**

Since the end of last year, President Callejas has been talking to us about an "overture to leftist forces," a "democratic overture," etc. We say, however, that a democratic society cannot exist with political prisoners, exiled people, or with citizens who are forced to live underground because of their political ideas. It also cannot exist with revolutionary militancy and violations of human rights and democratic freedoms.

Most of all, we cannot envision a democratic society where civilian power is totally subordinated to military power, as is happening in Honduras. The power of the Honduran Armed Forces is so absolute that, although they constitute the chief reason why the fiscal deficit is so large, their budget is kept intact so that the huge, repressive, and unproductive military apparatus, which, at this time, lacks any internal or external justification to be kept at its current level, can be maintained.

In view of the promises of President Callejas' "political opening," we ask: Who killed Carlos Alvarenga and why? Why is the military harassing the family of Doris Benavides? Why does the practice continue of threatening popular leaders of the people with death and planning sinister plots to physically annihilate them just because they defended their patriotic and progressive ideas? Why has not a decree with a broad and unconditional amnesty been issued? Why has not the antiterrorist law been repealed?

The so-called "political opening" cannot be simply and crassly a propaganda ploy by the government to project a favorable image abroad, but instead, it should be a real democratic commitment to the Honduran people and the start of a new phase in the country's political life.

The FPR feels that the minimum requirements do not exist for guaranteeing the democratic development of the country and demands that President Callejas meet these requirements, the most important of which are as follows:

1. Issuance of a broad and unconditional amnesty law to cover political and related offenses. This would allow the release of political prisoners, the return of exiled people to the country, and the incorporation into civilian life of all the people persecuted because of their political ideas.

2. Repeal of the antiterrorist law that violates the Honduran people's basic democratic freedoms, chiefly, the right to strike, the right of peasants to wage a just struggle to make land reform effective, and right to public protests.

3. Freedom for peasants jailed over land problems.

4. Effective dismantling of the Department of National Investigation (DIN), the 3-16 [not further identified], and other paramilitary corps.

5. Publication of a truthful report on people missing for political reasons.

6. Respect for the freedom of organization and mobility of different sectors of the Honduran mass movement.

7. Amendments to the electoral law so that it guarantees the free participation of all of the country's political forces in the electoral processes, without any advantage to the traditional political parties.

8. Full guarantees for the safety of all Honduran leftist militants. Respect for their political rights and free movements.

9. Reactivation of the National Reconciliation Commission so that it can guarantee respect for human rights and democratic freedoms.

**The FPR "Lorenzo Zelaya" Has Not Abandoned the Bases of Its Struggle**

The FPR "Lorenzo Zelaya" is a patriotic and revolutionary organization that was born on 30 November 1980 during the most tragic decade in our history. The exposition we have presented clearly indicates that we are not abandoning the bases of our struggle. These continue to be national independence, social justice, and the democratization of Honduras, the same principles for which Lempira, Morazan, Juan Pablo Wainwright, Manuel Calix Herrera, Lorenzo Zelaya, and all the martyrs of the Honduran revolution fought.

Our patriotic and revolutionary organization has managed to survive under truly difficult and adverse conditions for more than 10 years. Only our deep love for Honduras and our people has kept us going. We have never been "criminals" or "terrorists" as Armed Forces and government spokesmen have maliciously attempted to make us appear. We are simple men and women moved by our great love to a noble and just cause: to transform Honduras into an independent, prosperous country with social justice.

We have never expected anything in return. To the contrary, we have been willing to give the most precious thing we have, our lives, for the principles in which we believe and love and for which we struggle. Urban and rural young people, genuine patriots, unselfish children of the country have offered their lives under our clean banners. Today, we remember them and present them with our sincere homage.

**A Brotherly Salute to the Workers of Our Fatherland**

We are on the eve of the 1 May celebrations, a day dedicated to the workers of our fatherland and the world.

In these most difficult times for all Honduran people, we cannot forget May 1954, because it was a day on which the Honduran workers learned a great deal. On that day, the Honduran workers' strength, unity, and discipline managed to loosen the tentacles of the octopuses of the banana sector.

We must draw on the lessons learned in May 1954 because they still indicate the way to achieve victory.

Workers of Honduras, receive our brotherly salute and all of our solidarity with your just struggles: wages increases, labor stability, agrarian reform, and respect for labor, human, and democratic rights.

Viva 1 May!

Viva forever the martyrs of the Honduran revolution!

We will fight for national independence, social justice, and the democratizatino of Honduras until we win! [Signed] FPR "Lorenzo Zelaya" [Dated] Honduras, Central America, April 1991

## Nicaragua

### Chamorro Speaks at Planning Center Opening

*PA0305191691 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 May 91*

[Speech by President Violeta Chamorro at the inauguration of the National Planning Office for Development Centers of the Nicaraguan Resistance's Civic Association in Managua; no date given—recorded]

[Text] Dear friends; Msgr Eddy Montenegro, representative of our Catholic Church; Your Excellency Harry Shlaudeman, U.S. ambassador; Santiago Murgas, CIAV [International Commission for Support and Verification] - OAS Commission coordinator; members of the diplomatic corps; members of my government; demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]; journalists; and friends:

The courageous disarming of the RN concluded on 27 June 1990 in San Pedro de Lobo, Chontales Department, one year ago. These young men exchanged their rifles for plows and machetes, aware that they were helping reinforce the pacification and reconciliation process of the Nicaraguan family. They carried out the heroic feat of laying down their weapons, putting an end to the war, returning to civilian life, and joining the country's productive process. For this reason, the demobilized deserve the respect and sincere recognition of all the Nicaraguan people. Demobilized friends, agricultural production—like the recent bean crops in Nueva Guinea, El Rama, Waslala, Rio Blanco, Pantasma, San Jose de Bocay, and Yali—is the best evidence of industrious work. These communities increased their productivity in the land that my government returned. With the help of the United States and through the CIAV-OAS Commission, the Central American countries have been complying with their pledges. In the numerous meetings I have held with U.S. Government authorities and the OAS Secretary General, it has been my concern to guarantee this compliance. In addition, I have asked the CIAV-OAS Commission to extend its presence in this country because of its efficiency and valuable mediation in favor of peace and stability in our homeland.

Regarding food and other types of aid, I will personally continue to make sure that all related programs will be accomplished. At present, 94,952 people, including demobilized, repatriated, and relatives [as heard], receive a benefit through a monthly food allocation of rice, beans, salt, sugar, flour, milk, and oil, as well as construction materials and seeds, as part of the help that my government has received from the United States and channeled through the CIAV-OAS Commission. My government is complying and will continue to comply with the needs of the demobilized. Only extremists or political groups with a special agenda that we all are familiar with dare say that we have forsaken the RN members.

So far we have distributed 309,900 manzanas among former Nicaraguan RN members all over the country. Only yesterday 900 manzanas were distributed on the old road leading to Leon, with 5,000 manzanas pending distribution in San Miguelito, near the Rio San Juan Department. We will continue to bolster development plans for former RN members in accordance with our possibilities, and with special emphasis on rural areas.

We are bent on improving security measures for the demobilized, and we will not tolerate any disorder or actions that may endanger people's lives and security. No one, absolutely no one belonging to either UNO [National Opposition Union], the Sandinist National Liberation Front, or the demobilized RN will be allowed to go around shooting in the streets of Managua or in the countryside, endangering the lives of innocent people. The law is equal for all and will punish without political prejudice.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to invite all Nicaraguans to speed up the disarming of civilians. My government and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares began the formal work of effecting a national disarmament plan. I am sure this will contribute toward ensuring peace and stability in Nicaragua. I want to invite existing armed groups to turn in their weapons, learn of the benefits that civilian life has to offer, and incorporate themselves into our society. My office is always open to dialogue. This is the only way to resolve problems.

To conclude, I hereby officially inaugurate the National Planning Office for Development Centers, which will help to improve the socio-economic level of the demobilized fighters. With faith in God and the Nicaraguan people, we can find reconciliation and peace after all the suffering and years of war among brothers. I also want to thank you for this honor which my Nicaraguan Resistance friends have bestowed on me by choosing me as their president. Many thanks to all my dear friends. [applause]

### Former 'Contras' Reportedly Supplied New Weapons

*PA0305200991 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Matagalpa—Contras headed by Hernan Valdivia, alias Dimas, a brother of the old-time counterrevolutionary Encarnacion Valdivia, on 28 April were resupplied with weapons. The exchange took place at the home of Josefa Valdivia, located in El Coyolito hamlet, between Esteli and La Concordia. Oscar Danilo Galeano, alias Tiro al Blanco, another contra, was in charge of supply. His name has been mentioned in connection with crimes against peasants. He is the brother of former contra leader Israel Galeano, alias Franklin.

Among the goals of the contras that were supplied by Dimas is the takeover of the villages of La Concordia, San Sebastian de Yali, and San Rafael del Sur. The contras plan to kill government officials and Sandinist leaders as well as to kidnap important people. The report also states that Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman has met with counterrevolutionaries and his name is mentioned as one of those promoting the rearming of contras.

These actions are intended to cause chaos, to demand that President Violeta Chamorro hand over power to Dr. Virgilio Godoy Reyes, or to justify the presence of Yankee troops in Nicaragua.

### Former Contras Harass EPS Construction Brigade

*PA0405005191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2317 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Managua, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)—A group of former contras used firearms to harass a construction brigade of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], however there were no casualties, in this, the first armed incident since their disarmament in mid-1990, the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today.

The event took place on 2 May in a mountain region of Jinotega Department, along the Honduran border, where EPS soldiers are building a 45 km highway to link the towns of San Jose de Bocay and Ayapal, the source added.

In April 1990, the U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES and Sandinist radio station Radio Ya offered similar reports that approximately 200 former rebels had rearmed themselves and were preparing to attack northern towns because they were unhappy with the Nicaraguan Government's failure to fulfill its promises at the time of their disarmament.

Following the attack, the Army High Command sent troops to the northern mountain region where the event occurred.

### Daniel Ortega Defends Transition Protocol

*PA0505141691 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 2315 GMT 3 May 91*

[Report on news conference by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Executive Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, with unidentified correspondents in Managua on 3 May]

[Text] [Announcer] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Executive Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], this afternoon reaffirmed his defense of the transition protocol as a strategy in favor of the poor and the workers. Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega said this before local and and foreign journalists when commenting on the government plans to leave the poor unprotected by repealing Laws 85 and 86.

[Begin Ortega recording, in progress] ...defending the validity of the transition protocol is tantamount to defending with maturity and patriotism the stability, reconciliation, and peace in Nicaragua. Disregarding transition agreements is tantamount to promoting the crisis, attacking stability, peace, and reconciliation, and promoting a confrontation among Nicaraguans.

The FSLN National Directorate will firmly defend the validity of the transition protocol. We believe that this is an essential element in ensuring that the country will work for stability; that all Nicaraguans will successfully find ways to overcome conflicts and tension and achieve a minimum degree of peace.

We also reaffirmed our rejection to the attempts by extremist deputies at the National Assembly to repeal Laws 85 and 86. These actions, to a certain extent, enjoy the protection of others who also seek to promote a confrontation among Nicaraguans and are opposed to the reconciliation spirit that has been advocated by government officials and its represenatives at the National Assembly.

The Attorney General's Office's orders to return property violate the rights of Nicaraguans who benefited from the revolution. This is creating great tension day after day in the countryside and cities. Peasants who have received land are being affected. There are now attempts to strip that land from them with such orders.

There is a similar situation with the homes and the lots that were distributed to these people. In this regard, we reject the way in which the Attorney General's Office's orders to return property are being implemented because they affect the country's stability.

We reaffirmed today that if there were a debate at the Assembly to repeal Laws 85 and 86 we would withdraw all Sandinist deputies indefinitely.... [recording abruptly interrupted by station]

[Announcer] We will soon return with details on how the FSLN National Directorate is determined to maintain the validity of the transition agreements reached with the Chamorro government to protect all those families that were benefited with homes and lots by the time the FSLN turned over power.

[Words indistinct] charges allegedly leveled by certain sectors that the FSLN would negotiate with the government behind the backs of the people and would accept the maintainance of Laws 85 and 86 in exchange for the repeal of Law 92 at the National Assembly. Commander Daniel Ortega, on behalf of the National Directorate, has said that under no circumstances will the FSLN negotiate with the government although they will hold a meeting tonight. Let us hear Commander Daniel Ortega's explanation:

[Begin Ortega recording] Under no circumstances are we willing to exchange Law 85 for Law 92, because in any case, the Nicaraguan people would be called to make this

decision. We cannot mix different things here. We are defending the validity of Law 85 and are against its repeal. We have held many meetings with the government. There has been an open commitment to respect the basic achievements of popular sectors, of large segments of the population who have benefited through land, homes, and lots, in the agreements that have been signed between the government and the workers.

Tonight, we will hold another meeting with the government. We believe the situation is very acute and critical. We will meet with the government tonight to find a solution to this crisis. However, the aim is not to negotiate the exchange of one law for another. We will defend Nicaragua's right to be compensated by the United States. The government should move along to other laws it wants to repeal. We defend Nicaragua's right to be compensated by the United States.

We must look at the other side of the coin. If the United States were to honor international laws and compensate Nicaragua, we would have enough resources to compensate thousands of families that were victims of the terrorist U.S. policy; the families of friends who fell in combat or those who were killed defending the revolution as well as the families of the Nicaraguans who were killed while attacking the revolution. [end recording]

**Daniel Ortega on Democracy, LA PRENSA Report**

*PA0505135291 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 91*

[News conference by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Executive Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, with unidentified correspondents in Managua—live, monitored in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...undoubtedly committed a crime under the protection of people linked to the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] and people linked to the U.S. Embassy. This must concern us; this must prompt us to condemn these kinds of criminal actions and also to demand a more intensive investigation, because it would be an unacceptable crime if the U.S. Embassy is buying missiles. The Nicaraguan Government is supposedly sovereign and not the U.S. Embassy.

The government and the appropriate authorities are called to conduct the corresponding investigations. We want a complete clarification of this. As for the positions that have been adopted regarding the transition agreements, I believe that we cannot accept demagoguery nor politicking. We must demand patriotic and responsible attitudes. We must stop playing politics.

We must meet the Nicaraguan people's demands for stability. We must honor our commitment to strengthen democracy. Democracy was not born on 25 April, as right-wing groups want people to believe and certain so-called Sandinist media have fallen into the trap of believing. A budding democracy was not brought to life after 25 April. Actually, after 25 April, the budding democracy, which emerged in 1979 with the revolution, was placed in jeopardy. That budding democracy was jeopardized with the victory of a government that acquired commitments to the United States. Right-wing and Somozist forces have made efforts in this government in an attempt to kill the democracy that was born on 19 July 1979.

We cannot accept demagogic attitudes; we must demand honesty from the political forces that are committed to attaining peace and from the political forces that committed themselves to respecting the transition protocol. There must be consistency, responsibility, and firmness at this moment. We cannot accept double standards.

[Unidentified speaker] Mr. Ortega, as coordinator of the Executive Political Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, what is your opinion on LA PRENSA's report in this regard? LA PRENSA is owned by the president. The president's daughter is the chairwoman of its board of directors. Therefore, the Chamorros are the owners of LA PRENSA. However, all signs seem to indicate that it is implementing a campaign against the president and in favor of Mr. Godoy. They are distorting the news.

For example, yesterday, instead of reporting what the Government Ministry said, that newspaper claimed that it was simply reproducing information that appeared in Sandinist newspapers on the shooting incident and the statements by the Government Ministry on the arrested contras and another that is allegedly being sought.

[Ortega] The truth is that in Nicaragua there are certain media, voice and press, that are full of Somozism. They have a vengeful and Somozist attitude; a poisoned attitude. They are enemies of peace. There is certainly a contradiction here, because on the one hand, the president, who is the owner of that newspaper, is talking about peace and reconciliation, and on the other hand, that newspaper, which is her newspaper, does exactly the opposite.

This has something to do with the government's attitude also. Although it has reached agreements that we can describe as very good, it fails to achieve much progress when it comes to implementing such agreements. Some have been honored, others have not. However, the truth is that this reflects the contradictions that we are noticing. On the one hand we have Somozists, large estate owners, and capitalists, who have overtaken LA PRENSA. The Somozists have taken control of LA PRENSA after the triumph of the revolution. That is the truth. It was overtaken by Somozists, large estate owners, and capitalists who continue to control it.

I would urge extremist newspapers and radio stations to moderate their language and positions. With their language and positions they are provoking confrontations among Nicaraguans and are not contributing to the attainment of peace. They are creating much confusion, insecurity, and instability around the government itself, because

if a government follower who [words indistinct] and suddenly defends the vice president, who is the president's enemy.

This obviously does not bring about stability and security; this actually weakens the government. The media must play a more constructive role and the owners of that newspapers [words indistinct] ensure that the newspaper plays a truly constructive role; not a destructive one.

### FSLN's Borge Claims Pressures To Disavow Accord

*PA0305150091 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 2 May 91*

[From the independent "Extravision" newscast directed by Manuel Espinoza, former information minister under the Ortega administration]

[Text] In Matagalpa, where thousands of workers marked International Labor Day, Commander Tomas Borge has said that ultraright sectors, Cosep [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], and high-ranking officials of the U.S. State Department are pressuring the government to declare the Transition Protocol Agreement null and void.

Commander Borge, who was invited to the Labor Day celebration, recalled that the transition agreements are indispensable for the political stability of the country and urged the government to reject the pressure from the ultra-rightist sectors.

[Begin Borge recording] The gruesome thing is that apparently this government is letting the most reactionary elements of imperialism pressure the government more than reality, prudence, and the present real coordination that exists in this country, as well as the serious and moderate position adopted by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. The government is now trying to disavow the Transition Protocol Agreement. [end recording]

The government is trying to repeal Laws 85 and 86, which benefit thousands of poor families, said Borge, referring to the intentions of some conservative sectors to repeal these two laws.

The International Labor Day celebration took place in the city of Matagalpa. Jose Gonzalez, an FSLN leader in Matagalpa, and Denis [last name indistinct], Sandinist deputy for Region 6, attended the commemoration.

### Foreign Minister on ICJ Ruling, Debt Relief

*PA0405134291 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 May 91 pp 1, 5*

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus said on 30 April that "it would be beautiful" if Law 92—that forces the government to go ahead with its suit against the United States at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague—were abolished. Dreyfus said that "one of the alternatives" for obtaining an out-of-court settlement would be to sign a bilateral treaty between both countries.

Meanwhile, Alejandro Bendana, the former secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, accused Dreyfus of disrespect for international law. "This is the last straw of a colonialist mentality. Why exempt the United States? It should have to pay the moral cost, if not the material cost of it all," Bendana pointed out.

Father Francois Houbart, president of the Permanent Tribunal of the Peoples, agreed with Bendana and said that an out-of-court settlement between Nicaragua and the United States is "unacceptable" because the more powerful party would end up being the winner.

Dr. Vilma Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan Human Rights Center, (CENIDH), also criticized the Foreign Ministry stand and described as "deceptive" the government's plan to negotiate an out-of-court settlement with the United States.

Dreyfus refused to disclose the strategy he will use in an out-of-court settlement on the ICJ ruling that in 1986 condemned the U.S. Government for its war of aggression against Nicaragua.

"What the government and particularly the Foreign Ministry is seeking is that the president be allowed to conduct the negotiations as well as the bilateral and multilateral relations of Nicaragua," Dreyfus said, referring to the possibility of repealing law 92.

In his brief explanation about what would be a trade treaty, Dreyfus said that there are some similar ones in Central America. It is not a matter of just demanding a right, but of having an advantageous stand, of using an asset that we have such as the court ruling "and making good use of it."

When BARRICADA asked him if the U.S. Government had exerted pressure to dismiss the chief of the National Police, Commander Rene Vivas, Dreyfus answered: "Absolutely not. Furthermore, we would never accept that. No one should meddle or interfere in the nation's decisions, whether they be of an internal or external nature."

Concerning the efforts being made for obtaining resources that would allow making past due payments to the financial institutions, he said there is $360 million available for covering the payments, but negotiations are underway to see if these will be obtained as donations or stopgap loans, medium-term loans, or long-term loans.

He announced that, to this effect, the United States has increased from $50 million to $75 million its contribution, while Japan will donate $50 million. Japan promised an additional $50 million for financing structural adjustment.

Canada has offered $15 million, and there are other offers from the Nordic countries. Meanwhile, Germany

has increased its assistance for 1991 to 120 German marks ($75 million), of which $45 million would be for making past due payments.

When we conclude the Paris meeting on 15 May, we will have to come out with "white smoke," Dreyfus said, although he explained our problems will not be over. We would gain access to loans from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank in order to negotiate in June or July emergency financing, and then we would go to the Paris Club.

On another subject, the foreign minister confirmed that Nicaragua has asked the Venezuelan Government for assistance in investigating the case of young Jean Paul Genie who was murdered last October, while the U.S. authorities are investigating the case of former contra chief Enrique Bermudez.

He also confirmed that the president will tour France, Italy, the Vatican, the Nordic countries, and the USSR in October.

## FSLN's Carrion Scores 'Right-Wing Conspiracy'

*PA0405020191 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 May 91*

[Text] On 1 May, Luis Carrion, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], reported a dangerous conspiracy against the working class by UNO [National Opposition Union] politicians and former contras. Carrion said that Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman and Vice President Virgilio Godoy are reportedly involved in the conspiracy.

Addressing workers who participated in the demonstration staged by the National Workers Front [FNT] in Managua on 1 May, Carrion said that groups of contras are again taking up arms to strip peasants of their land in some parts of the country. Let us hear an excerpt of the speech delivered on 1 May by Luis Carrion, representing the FSLN National Directorate, to mark International Labor Day.

[Begin recording] Companeros, we are facing a dangerous right-wing conspiracy intended to deliver a strategic blow to the achievements of the revolution and plunge this country into a very dangerous crisis.

The conspiracy has brought together Somozists, landowners, and oligarchs, who are now organizing themselves and who have created associations of people whose properties were confiscated throughout the country. It has brought together pro-Godoy politicians, the parties of UNO, COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], and even government ministers. It has brought all the reactionary forces together to launch an organized attack, from all fronts, against the people. [indistinct shouts and chanting from the crowd]

In the field, the pro-Godoy politicians, Virgilio Godoy himself, and Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman [boos from the crowd] have been promoting the uprising of small groups of demobilized contras. There are armed groups in Jinotega, Matagalpa, Chontales, and in other parts of the country. We hold the pro-Godoy leaders, Mayor Aleman, and the [word indistinct] and extremist contra leaders responsible for promoting this dangerous situation [hoots from the crowd], which is the first manifestation of this vast right-wing offensive.

Second [as heard], those same forces have renewed their actions to forcibly dislodge peasants—beneficiaries of the Agrarian Reform Program—who farm individually or collectively in coops. They have provoked clashes over the past few weeks and months. People have died, and yet they continue to promote confrontation among the peasants. They continue their attempts to disarm the peasants who have benefited from the revolution. [end recording]

## Resistance Denies Making Attack on Chamorro

*PA0305154891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] New reports are circulating with regard to the masterminds and actual perpetrators of the attack on President Violeta Chamorro on the night of 26 April while she was attending a wedding in the La Cabana restaurant at the Intercontinental Hotel.

In a communique distributed to the media, the Nicaraguan Resistance denied any involvement in the attack. Government Ministry Spokesman Frank Cesar informed the press that the demobilized contras Harold Quezada and Carlos Garcia were in the station wagon owned by Maximino Rodriguez, a.k.a. Commander Wilmer, from which they allegedly fired.

Wilmer was taken to the police station for questioning and was released; Carlos Garcia is under arrest; and Harold Quezada, who fled in a red Mitsubishi car, is still at large. The government has been unable to detect his whereabouts. Wilmer denied any involvement in the attack, and Harold Quezada, a.k.a. Charlie, sent a letter to the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification], Cardinal Miguel Obando, and the government minister, also denying having been the person who actually fired the shots.

The police circulated a photograph of Harold Quezada yesterday and are asking citizens to inform the authorities if he is seen anywhere in the country.

## Fuel, Other Prices Fall; Devaluation Denied

*PA0405165591 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1340 GMT 30 Apr 91*

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government yesterday announced measures that bring big economic benefits to the nation. It reduced the price of diesel and of cooking gas by 10 percent.

This measure was announced by Deputy Economy Minister Dr. Noel Vidaurre. It is aimed at bringing down the

cost of urban and rural transport services as well as the production costs of many enterprises that function on hydrocarbons.

The price of carbonated beverages, which in many places are speculatory, will have to come down. The price on other goods people like to consume, prices that were set based on fuel costs, also will have to fall.

A gallon of diesel, which was selling for 6.50 cordobas, now will cost 6 cordobas; the 25-pound gas tank, which used to cost 25 cordobas, will now cost 20 cordobas. This will significantly reduce basic food basket expenditures.

Urban bus fares have been reduced from 70 centavos to 60 centavos. The workers will be the ones who will benefit the most from these measures.

Finance Minister Emilio Pereira has announced that reports going around that in June and July the cordoba will be devaluated are false. He said the government has the economy under control.

## Panama

### New Earthquake Rocks Bocas del Toro 3 May

*PA0505193891 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 5 May 91 p 1A*

[Article by Eduardo Soto and Carlos Vargas]

[Text] Health Ministry and Civil Protection officials were coordinating yesterday afternoon the total evacuation of Bocas del Toro residents, who were adversely affected by another quake on Friday, 3 May (6 degrees on the Richter Scale), a quake which injured dozens of people and resulted in more victims.

Yesterday, Health Minister Guillermo Rolla Pimentel asked the U.S. Southern Command, based in Panama, to send helicopters to evacuate residents of several towns in Bocas del Toro Province who were affected by the new quake.

#### More Injured People

The new 6-degree quake, which rocked the Province of Bocas del Toro, left 36 people injured, 400 families homeless, and more property damaged.

The Changuinola Hospital provided treatment to 33 injured people and three more were treated in Almirante. None of the injured were in serious condition.

#### Victims

The Friday quake adversely affected 400 families, who lost their homes and their belongings.

#### More Damage

It was reported that the quake left new cracks in the streets, which caused large floods in the banana areas of Farm 11, Farm 44, and Farm 60.

The Friday quake inflicted great damage on the only landing strip that was not adversely affected by the 22 April quake.

The landing strip on Farm 67 was being used as a site to receive the aid that was being sent from Panama City and other countries.

#### Thousands of Bocas del Toro Residents Migrate

The fear of quakes, the slow pace with which the aid is being received, and the property damage inflicted is resulting in the daily departure of some 1,000 people from Bocas del Toro Province, a source involved in first aid duties has reported.

The source said he estimates a total of some 7,000 Bocas del Toro residents have moved to the Province of Chiriqui, the Azuero Peninsula, and San Blas territory during the last week in fear of new quakes in the region.

#### Irregularities

The theft of 100 stretchers from the Changuinola hospital, the raiding of the Red Cross offices, and political interests are obstructing first aid duties, a civil defense source has said.

The source added that people close to the government stole equipment and medicine from the Red Cross offices in Changuinola, items which so far have not been found.

### Arias Calderon Visits Region

*PA0405130891 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Apr 91 p 1*

[Article by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] After visiting the Province of Bocas del Toro, First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said the national government should maintain and rebuild the province's economy if, after the earthquake, it wants to avoid a socioeconomic quake in a few days or weeks.

The government should initiate formal talks with the United Brands Company and with independent banana farmers as soon as possible to ensure job continuity and income for workers and administrators, Arias Calderon said.

He added that if necessary, in exchange for this continuity, the government should consider a temporary reduction of taxes on banana exports. We must avoid at all costs the collapse of the economy of thousands of families in Bocas del Toro Province because that would be equivalent to another earthquake.

Arias Calderon, who on 27 April visited the areas that were affected by the quake, said that his party returned with a series of notes on requests made by the residents of the area regarding their priority needs.

In this regard, Arias Calderon pointed out that the aid to the residents of the area has not resolved the basic needs of the population in the majority of cases.

The first vice president said there is a lack of organization and coordination in the distribution of the aid sent to the province. It is necessary to make rapid improvements in this area for the benefit of the people who were adversely affected.

In addition, Arias Calderon said there is no urgent planning and implementation of social programs for the reconstruction of social services, such as the repair and construction of houses, the establishment of centers for the resumption of classes, street repairs, repair and construction of aqueducts, and the provincial hospital.

Arias Calderon said that members of the Christian Democratic Party collected $10,270.24 for the Bocas del Toro quake victims. The money will be turned over to Caritas for the purchase of food for the residents of Bocas del Toro.

### Damage to Banana Production

*PA0305220591 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Apr 91 p 1*

[Report by LA PRENSA staff]

[Text] Official sources of the Chiriqui Land Company have reported that the banana plantations have not been as seriously damaged—comparatively speaking—as roads, railroads, bridges, and airports.

An official report from the Comptroller's Office states that the government and the private sector have agreed on the need to resume banana exports from the devastated Bocas del Toro Province as soon as possible to guarantee Panama's continued participation in the international market.

The fruit company also urged all its employees to go back to work to resume operation and production until the established quotas are met.

The populations in Changuinola, 33,632; Almirante, 11,300; and Guabito, 11,049, essentially live off banana production, Panama's largest export.

Nevertheless, since there has been concern over the condition of Almirante Port, a group of divers—experts in repairing these structures—were contracted and it has been determined that 75 percent of port structures were seriously damaged.

It has also been reported that the access bridge to Almirante Port was damaged. The repair of this access bridge requires a large investment and a significant logistical operation to move in all the equipment required for this work.

This week, the Chiriqui Land Company paid wages that correspond to the last pay period to all banana plantation workers, with the cooperation of the Panama National Bank.

Meanwhile, Euclides Diaz, National Banana Producing Council [Consejo Nacional del Banano] executive secretary, has said that banana production and export activity, hit by the strong quake in Bocas del Toro Province, will probably resume in 30 days. During this time, however, the government treasury will lose approximately $1.08 million in revenues.

Diaz noted that until the banana harvesting machines are put back to work, the country will not export 1.8 million cases of bananas weighing 18 kg each. This represents almost $11 million in revenues.

Preliminary data made available by the Chiriqui Land Company, the local producers, and the state-run company COBANA [Atlantic Banana Corporation], indicate that some stretches of railroad were damaged and that this is the main obstacle to resuming fruit harvesting. The railroad is the means of transport for moving banana production within the province.

The earthquake also destroyed four Chiriqui Land Company packing plants and two COBANA packing plants.

The report adds that it has been estimated that between five to 10 percent of the banana plantations will have to be replanted. This means that the 20 million cases of bananas exported annually will fall by 2 million. The plant takes nine months to produce.

Meanwhile, Vice President Ricardo Arias Caleron has asked the government—with extreme urgency—to grant a moratorium on the banana export tax paid by independent producers, as well as the United Brand, "so that this activity does not disappear from the Bocas del Toro Region."

Arias Calderon, who took a two-day tour of the Bocas Del Toro region hit by the earthquake, has emphasized the need to support this important source of work.

On this matter, the vice president proposed that the government consider granting a moratorium on the payment of the banana export tax. The producers, in exchange, would guarantee that the workers could continue, uninterrupted, on the payroll.

AID Director Thomas Stukel told LA PRENSA that his organization is willing to cooperate, if the Panamanian Government shows an interest in reprogramming the $114-million donation earmarked for the investment budget by using it to reconstruct the area hit by the quake.

Stukel noted that the AID will continue cooperating and trying to help the government in its relief efforts to the Bocas del Toro homeless.

Monsignor Jose Agustin Ganuza said that the food and water distribution system had been greatly improved since the first days after the quake.

Ganuza stated that by making use of existing organizations, such as local and community boards, a more efficient system had been established to distribute water, food, and other articles that are being sent in from Panama for the homeless.

### Canal Commission Directors Concerned Over Future

*PA0605143891 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Apr 91 p 2a*

[Letter of "Public Clarification" issued by the Panamanian members of the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors; date and place of issue not given]

[Text] As Panamanian members of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors, it gives us great satisfaction to note the entire country's interest in the waterway's future and the discussion about Panama's capacity to operate it efficiently.

These debates are mainly due to the negative experiences after the railroad and ports were turned over to Panamanian administration.

These events are still a matter of concern.

Thus different arguments ensue following different questions, each with a goal and a slant that yields what seem to be conflicting replies.

If the question is: Can the current Panamanian Government immediately undertake the Canal's operation and administration? It is obvious that the reply would be no. One should take into account, however, that not only is 86 percent of the canal's labor force Panamanian, but also, a significant percentage of improvement work, repairs, maintenance, etc. done on the canal is contracted through public bids to both Panamanian and foreign firms.

The PCC's Panamanian board members, having spent much time studying the canal's present and future with various sectors and experts both inside and outside the government as well as within the PCC itself, do not doubt that the Republic of Panama will be able to operate the canal, offering maximum guarantees to the world's merchant trade. The assumption is made that we have to prepare ourselves to create an organization to administer the canal with at least the same degree of efficiency and security as before, for the satisfaction of canal users and Panama.

This governing organization must remain isolated from partisan swings and from the pressures under which nearly all the autonomous entities are currently subjected. Some have suggested constitutional reform to guarantee that autonomy.

As current PCC directors, we are concerned with the study of this future governing organization. We feel committed to that future and committed to the path that will lead Panama to prepare itself to assume its historic role in administering the canal. We have 77 years of experience which can guide us to design this administrative structure.

There are technical and professional personnel inside and outside the PCC that could be invited to take part in the preparatory work. The country has government and private entities that could provide their experience. Finally, there are other canals and ports in the world that may allow us to learn from their operational efficiency.

If Panama begins to take the necessary steps to determine the type of administrative and operational organization that will replace the current PCC structure, we would be guaranteeing the world a safe, efficient, and continuously-improving and expanding future canal. To accomplish this, we need to begin making decisions immediately. [Signed] Cecilia Alegre, Alfredo Ramirez, Joaquin J. Vallarino Jr., Luis Anderson

### Assembly Approves Loan To Study Canal Options

*PA0405034891 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Apr 91 p 5A*

[REport by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] The Legislative Assembly Budget Commission has approved a special $2.5 million loan for the Foreign Relations Ministry to carry out its international commitment to finalize studies on alternatives to the Panama Canal. These studies are being conducted by the three-party commission comprised of Panama, Japan, and the United States.

Foreign Minister Julio Linares stressed that Panama "urgently" needs the authority to provide its contribution, which will prevent the work from coming to a halt. Without Panama's contribution, Linares continued, neither Japan nor the United States can provide funding as established by the agreement to conclude the project.

Foreign Minister Linares explained that the Panamanian Government had signed an agreement to receive financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for $7 million. However, he added, given the fact that Panama's situation with international financial institutions has not yet been normalized, the disbursements have not been made.

"Once we normalize our situation with the IDB and receive the loan, we will make the corresponding payment to the National Treasury," stated Foreign Minister Linares, adding that this special loan will be paid back.

Linares said that in 1982, the Governments of Panama and the United States agreed to create the preliminary commission, in which Japan was invited to participate, to carry out the feasibility studies to build a sea-level canal or a third set of locks.

Linares concluded that it is essential that Panama receive the Canal by the year 2000.

### Conep To Appeal Ruling on Suit Against U.S.

*PA0405131291 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 May 91 p 1A*

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] The Panamanian businessmen, whose stores were looted after the 20 December 1989 U.S. invasion, will appeal the decision of a U.S. federal judge, who rejected a suit for millions of dollars against the United States for losses incurred in the invasion.

Washington District Judge Stanley Harris ruled out any U.S. liability for the large losses and damage sustained by the Panamanian businessmen, which resulted from the widespread looting that followed the U.S. invasion.

"We will definitely appeal this ruling, because we believe that our claim is fair," said Manuel Berrocal yesterday, who presides over the commission appointed by the National Council of Private Enterprise (Conep) to deal with the matters pertaining to the looting.

Panamanian businessmen are demanding at least $200 million in compensation from the United States for losses incurred during the looting that took place after the dismantling of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

A local law firm and another one based in the United States are taking steps, on behalf of the Panamanian businessmen, to try to obtain compensation from the U.S. Government for the losses incurred.

### Arias Calderon Decries Social Security Cuts

*PA0305203391 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 May 91 p 1A*

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez and Althea Foster de Chevarria]

[Text] First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon has accused the government of submitting a bill, behind the back of the Social Security Fund [CSS] Board of Directors, on reducing CSS retirement benefits.

Arias Calderon made those remarks yesterday, Labor Day, during the inauguration of the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] District Directorate's office in San Miguelito. The opening ceremony was attended by PDC legislators and a large number of supporters and party members.

Arias Calderon, the PDC's top leader, said the cabinet approved this bill before the CSS Board of Directors had finished studying it so as to allow Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, planning and economicy policy minister, to present it to international financial institutions.

The first vice president added the government has not been concerned with protecting the jobs and salaries of over 8,000 Bocas del Toro residents. He says that the sole response to his proposal on this issue "has been inaction." He proposed that the government negotiate directly with the Chiriqui Land Company and other independent banana companies to maintain the current payroll, even if it takes a reduction in the export tax to achieve it.

"When these things are taken together, we realize the government lacks social sensibility toward the people, not to mention toward the country's workers," he said.

Arias Calderon said proposals now being made by the international financial institutions are much more drastic than those approved in the economic guidelines. "At no time was it said then that 19,000 public employees would be dismissed. Quite the opposite actually, the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] reconstruction agenda clearly stated that the number of public employees would not be reduced," he noted.

The vice president added that at the time, there had been no proposal to make drastic changes in the CCS law, "but on the contrary, it was agreed that any change would have to be discussed previously with the CSS Board of Directors."

"The privatization of Intel [National Institute of Telecommunications] was not proposed either, but rather it was said that private enterprise should be allowed to participate in new telecommunications services that are not offered now. The current services were to remain a public service in the hands of the Panamanian state, something the financial institutions are not now proposing," he concluded.

Meanwhile, CSS board member Fernando Boyd warned that the amendments to the institution's charter, which would determine whether or not it goes bankrupt, must not be treated as a "pawn for political infighting," and that it would be a "crime" to use them as such.

The Apede [Panamanian Association of Business Executives] representative on the CSS Board of Directors said the institution's true situation is much worse than imagined, and reforms are not only necessary but urgent.

Boyd said the CSS actuary deficit is almost 1 billion balboas, as 670 million balboas are "nonnegotiable" bonds and 150 million balboas constitute a virtual loss because the entity's funds were embezzled in the collective housing program.

"When someone says the CSS has an actuary reserve totalling 1 billion balboas, he is talking about something that simply does not exist," Boyd noted.

He added it is very difficult to tell the insured people that the CSS is bankrupt, and that the person chiefly responsible for it, then CSS director Doctor Abraham Saied, could be released at the request of the authorities.

Boyd said Saied is legally responsible for the squandering of the CCS funds, "and was found guilty of multiple offenses but given a reduced sentence." He noted that to use this situation for political purposes "would be catastrophic and very irresponsible."

Boyd, who is also a National Civic Crusade leader, said that the only thing that can be done is to build an institution with autonomy granted by law so that it will not go under or become the political prize of any group.

He said the decisions that are to be made "will not please anybody," but the problem of excessive benefits granted by the military regime, without any economic justification for them, must be resolved.

"It is now up to us to tell it like it is and take steps in favor of future generations; the rest would be demagoguery and politicking ...the people are tired of politics," he said.

Boyd affirmed that, as a member of the Board, he has asked the executive branch to review articles on retirement age, definition of salaries, participation of doctors and specialized personnel in the CSS decisions, and the percentage to be used to decide the retirement pension.

## Public Force Director Transfers Police Chiefs

*PA0405162891 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Apr 91 p 18*

[Report by Martin Gonzalez Saldana]

[Summary] Public Force Director Dr. Gonzalo Menendez Franco presided over an "absurd change of command ceremony, dictatorship style," in Chiriqui Province on 24 April. The ceremony took place at the David police garrison where the area command banner was transferred to Reinaldo Cedeno, who replaces Milton Castillo, who, in turn, has been transferred to head the Veraguas Province police.

## Argentina

### Ministers Decide To Deactivate Missile Program

*PY0505232091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 May 91 p 1*

[Text] (NA)—The Argentine defence, foreign and economy ministers met yesterday to agree on a "concrete plan" to deactivate the Condor II missile programme and remove the Space Investigations Commission from under military control, placing it under direct control of the presidency.

The three ministers agreed to cancel the nuclear-capable missile programme in time for Defence Minister Erman Gonzalez' upcoming visit to the US, where he will meet with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

The transfer of the Space Investigations Commission to civilians hands would also mark a significant change in Argentine policy, which has traditionally seen such projects run by the military.

Defence Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez, however, yesterday said that the Condor II programme could continue if Argentina signed a multi-national pact to develop the missile for peaceful goals. "It is one of the alternatives," Erman Gonzalez said, "for mutual control of the project."

### Investigation of U.S. Bribery Charges Suspended

*PY0505232691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 May 91 p 1*

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Legal inquiries into the Swiftgate scandal were temporarily closed by Federal Judge Miguel Pons yesterday after US Ambassador Terence Todman and Swift company officials failed to name any government official as openly soliciting bribes from the company.

The case concerned the import of machinery for the company, which had been tied up in red tape since 1987. This led to a letter of protest from Todman on Swift and other cases of interference in US business in Argentina.

The affair led to the downfall of President Carlos Menem's brother-in-law and ad honorem adviser Emir Yoma, whom rumours pointed to as soliciting bribes from the company to clear up the red tape.

Called to the court, Todman made use of the diplomatic privileges granted him under the Vienna convention and refused to testify. Although this was within his rights, Pons said it was disappointing "given the seriousness of his charges which generated a true scandal."

Swift managers also failed to identify any bribe-soliciting officials, which led Pons to close the case for the time being yesterday.

### Economy Minister on Prospects for IMF Agreement

*PY0205175491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0230 GMT 1 May 91*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has said that Argentina will reach an agreement with the IMF between May and August. He added that the country is negotiating a credit of approximately $1 billion and that an IMF delegation will arrive in the country to "adjust details" of the letter of intent.

During a news conference granted tonight [as received] to give an assessment of his 10-day tour of Italy, Spain, and the United States, Cavallo said he had verified in those countries the "existence of full confidence in the progress of the profound economic and foreign policy changes" undertaken in Argentina. He said that there is "a good climate" for foreign enterprises "to participate in future privatization plans or to consider investment projects."

Cavallo said that the IMF "is well disposed" to provide assistance to the country, and he justified the delay in the agreement, stating: "It is our firm objective to have all agreements signed from now on strictly fulfilled, whether with the IMF, the World Bank, the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], the Paris Club, or the creditor banks."

At the news conference, during which he was accompanied by Deputy Minister Carlos Sanchez and chief adviser Juan Llach, Cavallo said that in April "a total climate of stability was achieved, which does not mean stagnation, but with prices that remained unchanged." He added: "We believe that this climate will be consolidated in the next few months."

During the news conference, the minister ruled out the possibility of a total elimination of the tax on profit [impuesto a las ganancias] for the fourth category (wage earners) although he confirmed that a bill to amend the tax will be submitted to congress.

When asked about Acindar [Argentine Steel Industry, Inc.], which laid off all its personnel, Cavallo said that the government "is concerned over the provision of job opportunities in Argentina," and he noted that in this case the businessmen are responsible, and that the workers are right to express their demands.

He expressed his support for the employment bill and the reform proposed to establish a ceiling on compensatory pay for lay-offs and to change the law on work accidents. He said that such instruments will contribute to creating new job opportunities.

He said the Firestone company will have to pay its debt to the DGI [General Directorate of Taxation], and he added that "even though it is a multinational enterprise, the current legislation will not be changed."

From a personal point of view, he said that the Koner Salgado group "has carried out a spectacular swindle" against the national treasury, and it did so "with the participation of people who work for the government and the DGI, and who have probably led other enterprises to err," including Firestone.

He admitted that the affected enterprises must be compensated for that swindle, for which he said that "the Koner Salgado board of directors and the involved officials must be held responsible."

### Cavallo Assumes Economy, Public Works Portfolios

*PY0305213091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 May 91 p 3*

[Text] (DYN)—Former Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo swore his allegiance to the Constitution for the second time yesterday, when he took office as Economy and Public Works minister. Yesterday's ceremony was made necessary by the recently approved Ministries Law, which split the Education and Justice Ministry into two, and fused the Economy and Public Works Ministries.

### Menem's State of the Nation Address Analyzed

*PY0505230091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 May 91 pp 3, 18*

[From the "Politics & Labour" column by Michael Soltys: "May Day: Maradona's Cry for Help"]

[Excerpt] The week was neatly bisected by May Day and President Carlos Menem's state-of-the-nation address to Congress, which was something less than a watershed despite being not so short as promised. Not too much happened before the speech but the resignation of Santa Cruz Governor Jose Ramon Granero in the second half of the week carries disturbing implications.

The outstanding feature of Menem's speech was a note of self-criticism—admitting that a climate of "universal suspicion" surrounded government officials and politicians alike, he promised to expose and eliminate the twin evils of drugs and corruption, instead of covering them up. There had not been enough austerity on the part of his government, he said. Menem also blamed the failure of his administration to deliver so far on the preoccupation of the ruling party with its internal politics. Not only did he thus rap his fellow-Peronists and fail to quote Juan Domingo Peron at any point in a speech lasting almost a hour (last year he equally ignored Peron in a 69-minute address)—he also had words of praise for opposition deputies. As if to underline the President's distance from his own party, only about half the Peronist deputies were present.

The President also promised strict neutrality in October's elections but—quite apart from the explicit support he has given to the candidacies of Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde in Buenos Aires, singer Ramon "Palito" Ortega in Tucuman and even Domingo Cavallo in Cordoba (a long time ago)—there seemed to be more than a touch of electioneering in his May Day address. Instead of preaching economic modernization for its own sake, Menem described economic instability as "the cruelest cause of social injustice" and listed some of his government's social measures, such as 72,000 housing units, food aid for three million children, 1.1 million kilos of powdered milk, six million vaccination shots, etc. Instead of a Thatcherite pep talk on privatization, Menem spoke of "improving" an increasingly unpopular process and spoke against "savage capitalism" bringing only the "right to die of hunger."

And yet this language may not be a simple reaction to election needs. Firstly, Menem's concept of "humanized capitalism" may look like an attempt to steal a march on the Pope, who came out with the same notion the next day in his social encyclical Centesimus Annus, but Menem said exactly the same last year. Which may well give him the basis for saying that the Pope stole the idea from him just as Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika in the Soviet Union (started 1985) is an imitation of Menemstroika (started 1989). But it is at least as likely that Menem's young ghost-writer, the devoutly Catholic Public Administration Secretary Gustavo Beliz who took Menem to monasteries earlier this year, was borrowing heavily from advance releases of Centesimus Annus—another Beliz touch was the stress Menem placed on modernizing and professionalizing the patronage-ridden civil service.

Menem started off by promising a "short, direct speech" on open government but ended up touching all policy areas, as any self-respecting state-of-the-nation speech should. Nor did he confine himself to the problems, as promised at the outset. Thus in the economy he spoke of reducing interest rates to international levels, restoring credit, ending speculation, removing the fiscal deficit and privatizing SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services] power utility, gas, Obras Sanitarias waterworks, coal, the ports, ELMA [Argentine Shipping Lines] shipping line, ENCOTEL [National Enterprise for Mail and Telegraph] Post Office and the underground (Menem did not say to what extent the one-off revenues from past and present privatizations account for the present headway against the fiscal deficit). In foreign affairs Menem boasted of opening up Argentina to the world and uniting the region via Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. Then he spoke of the plans to reform labour legislation as well as introduce unemployment insurance and so on through the ministries. On the whole the speech was solid and comprehensive enough. Inevitably the critics said they preferred deeds to words but then speeches normally do contain words rather than deeds—perhaps the main weak point was the degree to which Menem used the future rather than past tense after almost two years in office.

The general thrust of Centesimus Annus seems to indicate that the Catholic Church is ready to rush into the gap left by the decline of Marxism with a social gospel

and critique of capitalism but in Argentina it was the Marxist left which filled the gap left by Peronism on May Day. Like "humanized capitalism" this Peronist absence and red flags in Plaza de Mayo was a direct repeat from last year but the numbers were much smaller. While some 50,000 leftists thronged in the Plaza last year, there were at most 18,000 on Wednesday [1 May] (half that number according to the police) while the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo were in Plaza Once (just to be confusing) with 1,000 of their friends and there were about 400 socialists in Casa Suiza—although the usual political leaders (Luis Zamora, Nestor Vicente, Jorge Altamira, etc.) spoke, there was also an attempt to give prominence to shop-steward-level trade unionists. The left took over May Day by default since both Peronist trade union groupings were singularly inactive, the CGT [General Confederation of Labor]-San Martin taking out a paid ad and CGT-Azopardo leader Saul Ubaldini going to Santa Cruz (which could be more of a hotspot than Buenos Aires, however). But perhaps the Peronists have the right idea—perhaps trade unionism and May Day are so out of date that they are not worth fighting for.

**Sou'easter Winds**

Menem's state-of-the-nation message had its provincial equivalents throughout the country—Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero's self-criticism revolved around losing the August 5 constitutional plebiscite last year—but the real drama came afterwards in Santa Cruz with Granero's resignation. A victim of adjustment policies, the Movement for Integration and Development (MID) politician quit after being refused federal aid to pay April wages when doctors, policemen and diverse other provincial employees are on strike. Now federal intervention looms in Santa Cruz since nobody wants his job (which Granero defined as "executioner of my people"). This scenario could be repeated in other provinces. If parts of Menem's May Day speech suggested electioneering, the stubbornness against any handouts to the provinces seems the opposite—is this any way to win an election? Nor is the government even standing on the principle of not paying the provinces an austral more than their due since in many cases it is actually paying less—thus Santa Cruz is owed nine billion (million million) australs in oil royalties when 40 billion would solve all problems. Many other provinces including Buenos Aires, Cordoba and Mendoza are owed money by the national government. Even the federal government's own trustee in Tucuman Julio Cesar Araoz said that Economy Minister Cavallo should be more sensitive although he also urged governors to both increase provincial taxation and cut their spending.

With eight provinces set to vote in September and the rest in October Radical ex-president Raul Alfonsin tips his party to take 18 of the 24 districts while Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa said the Peronists would win almost everywhere. But Mera Figueroa's room for manoeuvre with electoral alliances is being severely restricted by Economy Ministry austerity—independents like Santiago de Estrada in Buenos Aires now seem to feel more comfortable as independents, providing a non-Radical opposition alternative rather than joining a struggling government even if they sympathize with the latter's neo-liberal aims. The identity crisis within the right-of-centre Democratic Centre Union (UCeDe) precisely because of its alliance with the government certainly does not discourage such thinking. With the left in even worse disarray more and more voters are interested in not only the independent candidates but also a new electoral system which enables them to pick such candidates rather than the choices of party machines.

Meanwhile Duhalde seems less and less inclined to run in Buenos Aires. Nor would he necessarily win—some polls give him as little as 10 percent (in common with his probable Radical rival, former Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese). An opinion poll in La Plata gave Cordoba Radical Governor Eduardo Angeloz a 52 percent rating, Cavallo 45 percent, Menem 28 percent and Cafiero 11 percent. [passage omitted]

## Bolivia

### President Signs Directive on Modernizing Military

*PY0405142691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 May 91*

[Excerpt] President Jaime Paz Zamora has signed a decree creating the National Armed Forces Presidential Directive [Directiva Presidencial de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nacion].

The purpose of this directive is to adapt the structure of the Armed Forces to the current deep changes in the nature of Bolivian and global economic, political, and social systems. The directive will affect the Defense Ministry, the Armed Forces, schools of advanced national studies, and all military organizations and departments.

The directive focuses on four main issues: Updating and reviewing the constitutional basis for the Armed Forces; improving the operational efficiency of the Armed Forces; participation of the Armed Forces in the development process; and caring for the standard of living of military personnel.

Almost 200 Armed Forces personnel, including generals, officers, and civilians, will participate in the program. During the ceremony, General Jorge Moreira Rojas, Armed Forces commander in chief, said:

[Begin recording] It is appropriate to thank his excellency the president of the Republic for this important expression of his concern. We are pleased with the presidential directive because we agree with its goals. We have long been concerned about making progress toward adapting the Armed Forces to modern times. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Armed Forces Chief on Possibility of Corruption

*PY0405005291 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 May 91*

[Excerpt] General Jorge Moreira Rojas, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has pointed out that if corruption appears in the Armed Forces now that they are participating in the antidrug struggle, the situation will be corrected in due time.

[Begin Moreira recording, in progress] ...in every institution, we have our laws, our rules and regulations. Should this exist, and if some problems of this nature are detected, I believe that it would be appropriate to correct it all in due time by submitting all the situations that could arise to a kind of court in which they could be investigated and the law could be enforced. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Army Command Surprised by Damaging Press Reports

*PY0405151491 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] The Army General Command has expressed surprise over some press reports designed to damage the dignity of Army officers, especially those of the Tarapaca Regiment where, it was reported a few days ago, a captain may be involved in shady dealings involving bargaining on and the sale of motor vehicles.

General Gonzalo Block Melgar, chief of the Army Public Relations Department, has said that the report is being investigated and the offender will be punished as soon as the motives are known.

[Begin Block recording, in progress] ...in order to call attention to the injustice committed against our institution by pointing this out in the headlines, headlines that you could see in all newspapers yesterday. I do not know. This represents [words indistinct] a particular unit, involving perhaps an investigation of one member of our institution whose possible activities we in no way intend to conceal or protect. [end recording]

## Brazil

### Economy Minister: U.S. Trip 'Quite Positive'

*PY0405171691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 May 91*

[By reporter Nasibrun Junior]

[Text] In the opinion of Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello, her visit to the United States to participate in the annual IMF meeting was quite positive.

Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello said that the most important point of that meeting for Brazil was the IMF's acceptance of simultaneous negotiations with the creditor banks on payment of the debt. According to the minister, the IMF position transformed the routine mission of the IMF delegation in Brazil into a negotiating mission.

[Begin Cardoso recording] (?The IMF) did not elaborate on [words indistinct]. We just agreed that, instead of being a routine mission, it would be a pro-agreement [pro acordo] mission. Therefore, we left discussion on the type of agreement for a later phase. [end recording]

Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello added that she reminded the international financial officials of President Fernando Collor de Mello's goal of reaching an agreement on payment of the foreign debt as soon as possible.

### U.S. Surtax Reduction on Orange Exports Viewed

*PY0405003091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] A surtax imposed by the United States on Brazilian orange exports could be reduced by 50 percent. This information was supplied by Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera, who met in Washington with Carla Hills, chief of the U.S. Foreign Trade Department [title as heard].

Cabrera also plans to reach financing agreements with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank for new research technologies and basic irrigation analysis.

### Military, Civil Servants Given Salary Increases

*PY0405151891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] The government is going to release 100 billion cruzeiros for the salary increase that will be paid to civil servants and the military as of this month.

The military will receive an average increase of 20 percent and the increase will benefit approximately 300,000 active and reserve military men and pensioners.

The increase for civil servants has not yet been determined. The Administration Secretariat has reported that the salary increase will benefit about (650,000) civil servants.

## Chile

### Correa: Government Disagrees With U.S. Report

*PY0405152091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] The government does not agree with the U.S. State Department's evaluation that there is a high level of terrorist activity in Chile. On the contrary, there is great confidence in our country, in its economy, and in the government's seriousness.

This statement was made at La Moneda Palace by Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa, who ruled out the possibility that terrorist groups could jeopardize our international trade. Neither can the U.S. State Department report on terrorism in Chile having an impact on our trade, Correa stated.

[Begin Correa recording] We believe that there is great confidence in Chile, in its economy, and in our government's seriousness. There is also confidence in our respect for the rules of the game in foreign trade activities. Our country has one of the most open economies in the world. We are also one of the most developed countries in the trade sector. We have managed to strengthen the internationalization of our economy and naturally, we do not believe that a minority group, although dangerous, can jeopardize important trade trends such as those established between Chile and the international economic community. [end recording]

The minister secretary general of government said that he disagrees completely with the U.S. State Department's evaluation of terrorism in Chile.

### Displeasure With Report Noted

*PY0305192491 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] The Chilean Government has expressed its total displeasure with a U.S. State Department report that says Chile is one of the countries in which terrorist actions have increased since the advent of a democratic government.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas met with U.S. Charge d' Affaires David Greenlee at the Foreign Ministry and told him that the report is inaccurate and does not faithfully reflect some data. Vargas added that the report has improperly considered that some attacks, such as those against Mormon churches, are political crimes.

The U.S. charge said that this type of report, which is drawn up every year, follows fixed criteria and added that there is no political motivation behind it and that its conclusions should not affect either the Chilean image abroad or U.S. investment in our country.

## Pinochet on Travel Plans; UK Reaction Noted

*PY0305234891 Madrid EFE in English 2032 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Santiago, May 3 (EFE)—Facing London's firm denial that he was to visit Britain, former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet declared Friday [3 May] that he would soon make foreign trips "at the invitation of Armed Forces," although he did not specify which countries had invited him.

"I never said where I was going to go," Pinochet told journalists at a military ceremony, after repeating that he was not due to visit arms manufacturers in Britain, as claimed by the Chilean Army press office last week. Pinochet admitted that no foreign governments had asked him to pay a visit.

British Deputy Defence Secretary David Clark on Wednesday quashed announcements from the Chilean Army that Pinochet was on his way to London by saying that Britain had not invited him and never would. The British opposition Members of Parliament presented a motion to the House of Commons that the elderly general should not be allowed to enter the country.

The international community has adhered to a general policy of diplomatically isolating Pinochet because of his government's atrocious human rights record during his 17 years in office, which ended with his election defeat by President Patricio Aylwin in 1989.

Pinochet refused to comment Friday on London's emphatic rejection of his visit but, asked if he thought the negative reaction was part of a campaign against him, the ex-dictator replied, "Communism is very crafty. It has created a distorted image of me. People now are recommended to beware."

Pinochet traveled to Spain in 1975 while still in office, but has not returned to Europe since then. He handed over power to Aylwin in March 1990 after the democratic elections but, under a military-drafted constitution, is to stay on as Army chief until 1997.

### UK Invitation Denied

*PY0305234091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1602 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Santiago, 3 May (EFE)—General Augusto Pinochet, Army commander in chief, has reaffirmed that he did not receive any invitation from the British Government or Armed Forces to visit the United Kingdom, as has been reported.

"I have not made plans to travel to the United Kingdom," Pinochet said in Vina del Mar, 125 km from Santiago, on 2 May. He added: "I never said that the British Government or the British Armed Forces invited me to visit the country."

Pinochet's comments have confirmed statements made by officials of the British Defense Ministry and the Foreign Office, who reported from London that the British Government had not invited Gen. Pinochet.

A spokesman for the British Embassy in Santiago has pointed out that the Foreign Office believes that any unofficial visit by Gen. Pinochet would be private.

## Pinochet Meets Ex-Ministers, Retired Generals

*PY0305154291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Augusto Pinochet yesterday had lunch with former ministers and assistants from his administration at the military club in Penalolen.

The meeting, which military sources described as an event of comradeship, was attended, among others, by Francisco Javier Cuadra, (Andres Rosicot), Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, (Rolf Luder), and Miguel Angel Poduje. Retired Generals Humberto Gordon, Alejandro Medina Lois, Luis Danus, Agustin Toro Davila, (Raul Peri), and Roberto Soto were also seen entering the military club.

Asked about the reason for the meeting, Pinochet said he always keeps in touch with his former assistants and the meeting had no significance at all.

### Military Role in Antiterrorist Fight Debated

*PY0505012891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Mar 91*

[Text] The UDI [Independent Democratic Union] has reiterated that the participation of the Armed Forces in the struggle against terrorism, as the government is sponsoring, should not be disregarded. However, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has asserted that this would be negative for the military profession.

UDI Secretary General Joaquin Lavin has stated that actions are being taken after terrorist attacks are perpetrated and that the ideal would be for actions to be taken before the attacks occur.

[Begin Lavin recording] The terrorists must be uncovered. The Manuel Rodriguez Front and the Lautaro Movement should be infiltrated, and I believe that the participation of the Armed Forces intelligence services in this area should not be disregarded. [end recording]

In the meantime, acting PDC Chairman Genaro Arriagada said that the experiences of Chile and the world prove that the UDI is quite mistaken.

[Begin Arriagada recording] The involvement of the Armed Forces in the antiterrorist struggle will have a bad result. It will be negative for the military profession, bad for the Army's prestige, and bad for officers' careers. [end recording]

### Teitelboim Comments on Reduced Role of Socialism

*PY0505005091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] Volodia Teitelboim, secretary general of the Communist Party of Chile, has stated that socialism as a system no longer exists in the social, political, or economic sectors.

This does not mean, however, that communists and socialists no longer exist, because the causes for which they fight still exist, Teitelboim said. They will exist, he noted, for as long as man exploits man and tremendous poverty exists in the Third World.

Teitelboim made these remarks in response to questions on proposals made by Pope John Paul II in his new encyclical. Teitelboim said that this is a very important church document which must be studied.

### PDC States Desire for 'Institutional Order'

*PY0405193291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] stated today that it will make all possible efforts and will seek all necessary alliances to preserve in Chile implementation of an institutional order that will guarantee respect for the universal values of democracy.

The PDC board members made these remarks this morning in a news conference chaired by Acting PDC President Genaro Arriagada. He also noted recent remarks by leaders of the National Renewal Party and the Independent Democratic Union on the projected reform of the municipal system.

Arriagada said that despite the existence of a democratic government in Chile, there are certain norms that contradict its essence, among which he cited the fact that the people cannot elect municipal board members or that the majority of councilmen elected in 1989 cannot by themselves change the laws as they deem necessary.

## Colombia

### 'Terrorist Plan' Against Diplomat Revealed

*PA0405155991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1443 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] Bogota, 4 May (EFE)—Bogota's EL ESPECTADOR newspaper today reports that British secret police uncovered a terrorist plan to attack "a disintiguished Colombian diplomat." According to the newspaper, the Colombian authorities learned of the report on 3 May, and then confirmed the version with Scotland Yard.

The news alerted police in European countries and they in turn stepped-up security in Colombian embassies—particulary in London and Bern, where former President Virgilio Barco and former Justice Minister Enrique Parejo Gonzalez, respectively, serve as ambassadors.

On 30 April former Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra was murdered in Bogota, apparently by paid assassins who serve the drug trafficking gangs. Parejo Gonzalez suffered serious injuries during an attack in Budapest a few years back. Later a plan was disclosed to murder him in Prague before he was transferred to Bern.

EL ESPECTADOR stated that people close to Barco in London denied knowing about the plan and said that the former president was tired of responding to these types of suppositions.

## Government Offers Specific Proposal to CNG

*PA0505214091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1949 GMT 5 May 91*

[Text] Bogota, 5 May (EFE)—The Colombian Government today made a specific proposal to the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG) to immediately hold a preparatory meeting with that organization.

Three representatives of the CNG, made up of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Army of National Liberation (ELN), took refuge last week in the Venezuelan Embassy to request that the Colombian Government hold peace negotiations. They later took asylum in Venezuela.

The government of President Cesar Gaviria today announced that it is willing to negotiate with those three guerrillas, who are now in Caracas, or with other rebel leaders. The proposal is contained in a document released in Bogota and signed by Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana and Presidential peace adviser Jesus Antonio Bejarano.

In its initiative, the government expressed its "firm desire to attain peace and for this purpose it is willing to begin talks as soon as possible with the two groups that still persist in their violent action." The government proposes "an immediate preparatory meeting with the three CNG members who are in Venezuela or whomever the CNG designates" and to this effect the government includes a list of 16 places, most of which are located in Meta Department, where the main CNG camp is located.

The proposal reiterates the government's willingness to transfer "the guerrilla delegates to any of these 16 locations, observing proper security measures," and to return them once the meeting is over "to an agreed upon location," also observing "proper security." The government proposal stresses that "if a preparatory meeting is to be held abroad, the government is willing to send representatives to the agreed country or place."

The government reiterated that the offer of direct talks, made in September 1990, stands and so does the possibility of reached agreements being internationally supervised.

The document also says "there is a possibility of incorporating political and non-governmental sectors into the talks," according to what is agreed with the CNG. The government also proposed "presenting to congress the ratification of the additional Geneva Protocol II as soon as the guerrillas give firm proof of their willingness to comply."

Lombana and Bejarano disclosed that "this proposal has been sent to the three CNG members in Venezuela through Colombian Ambassador Noemi Sanin." Lombana and Bejarano said that "the document was also given to the Episcopal Conference for forwarding to the CNG by radio, which is used for humanitarian grounds."

## Possible Sites for Government-CNG Talks Listed

*PA0605042091 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 May 91*

[Text] The names of the towns where the government proposes to hold a preliminary dialogue to establish the terms for direct talks with the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] were released today.

The document was disclosed after three subversives sought asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy and traveled to Caracas, where they will reportedly hold talks with Colombian Government representatives.

In a communique issued today, the government reiterated that it is willing to hold direct talks with the CNG and it disclosed the text of a proposal presented to the insurgent group, a proposal delivered to the CNG spokesmen who sought asylum in Caracas.

The government established 16 places where a preparatory meeting with CNG members could be held immediately: San Pedro de Arimena in Meta Department; La Esmeralda in Mapiripan municipality, Punta Hermosa, La Guajira in Mesetas municipality; El Mirador in La Uribe municipality, Mesa de Fernandez in Mesetas municipality; La Primavera, Cumaribo, Guerima, San Jose de Ocune and Tres Matas in the Vichada commissaryship; and Caracol, also known as Villanueva, La Rubiera, La Barquerena, Puerto Rondon, and Cravo Norte in Arauca intendency.

In the communique the government also reiterates its willingness to take guerrilla delegates to any of these 16 locations, with the respective security measures and to transfer them back to an agreed place once the meeting has ended.

We learned about the CNG's response through Jaime Fajardo, an EPL [Popular Liberation Army] Constituent Assembly member:

[Begin Fajardo recording] I think that it is positive to choose a place for the first meeting and to make such a possibility a reality. I believe that the CNG should accept one of these places and the possibility of holding the talks in another country should also be considered to discuss an agenda and other aspects inherent the negotiations. The most important aspect of all this is that the government has already made a decision.

I believe that one of the 16 places will serve as the site of the first meeting between the CNG and the government. [end recording]

The preparatory meeting will establish the dates, the length of the meetings, the place, and the logistics needed to hold talks abroad.

### Army, Rebel Units Clash on 4 May; 21 Killed

*PA0505022991 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0113 GMT 5 May 91*

[Text] There are ongoing clashes between rebels from the Domingo Lain Saenz Front of the Army of National Liberation and the 10th Front of the Revolutionary Army Forces of Colombia with troops from the Army's 2d Division. So far, 10 guerrillas and 11 soldiers have been killed in these clashes. The authorities reported that the clashes started at the Los Charcos police inspection post, Arauquito jursidiction, Arauca Intendance, at 0600 today. During these clashes, four soldiers were wounded; one was transferred to the Bogota military hospital this afternoon and the other three are being treated at the Arauca Hospital.

### Rebels on Talks; Minister on Diplomatic Efforts

*PA0505043391 Bogota Inravision Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 May 91*

[Text] Our correspondent Norberto Maza has gathered the following information on the Colombian guerrillas who were given asylum in Venezuela this week.

[Begin recording] [Maza] Immediately after they learned that the Venezuelan Government had granted them asylum, the three guerrilla commanders—Daniel Aldana of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC; Miguel Suarez of the dissident branch of the Army of National Liberation, ELN; and Lucia Gonzalez of the ELN—talked to the media.

[Unidentified guerrilla commander] The Colombian Government is entirely to blame for the failure of the talks which could have lead to peace in Colombia.

[Maza] The Colombian Ambassador to Venezuela Noemi Sanin de Rubio is carrying out intense diplomatic activities to faciliate the negotiations. She is doing so with marked discretion to avoid disclosing information to the media that could hinder the negotiations. The Venezuelan authorities are keeping the place of the probable meeting secret. However, it is believed that if an agreement is reached, Venezuela would move the negotiations to Orchila Island to protect them from the press. [end recording]

On the same subject, Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo commented on the efforts being made by Ambassador Noemi Sanin in Venezuela with the two [figure as heard] rebels who have been given asylum. Myriam Ortiz spoke to the foreign minister, who also talked about the charges made by the relatives of former Minister Enrique Low Mut a. Here is her report:

[Begin recording] [Ortiz] Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo hopes that the talks with Ambassador Sanin and the three guerrillas in Venezuela will result in the initial agreements that will finally make the peace talks possible.

[Jaramillo] Her talks with the three guerrillas will determine whether the talks are held in Caracas or elsewhere. She is trying to determine the agenda.

[Ortiz] The foreign minister also talked about the murder of former Minister Enrique Low Murtra.

[Jaramillo] Yes. I had talked to him. He did not mention any threats, difficulties, or security problems and he did not tell me that he wanted a diplomatic post. We simply talked about matters that concerned us and then we ended our conversation. Unfortunately, it was only after he was killed that I learned he had been threatened and about the famous Basque terrorists. I did not know this when we made the decision to designate Enrique Parejo at the embassy in Switzerland. [end recording]

### Congress Rejects Constituent Assembly Autonomy

*PA0405041191 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] The National Congress and several Constituent Assembly delegates have rejected the National Constituent Assembly's decision to declare its autonomy and authority to issue constitutional provisions with immediate effect, describing the Assembly's decision as a coup against the country's legal order.

Senate President Aurelio Iragorri Hormaza announced that an informal meeting of the National Congress will be called to analyze the situation and stated that the Constituent Assembly's decision to declare its sovereignty constitutes a technical coup against the Colombian legal order.

Liberal Party Delegate Carlos Lemos Simmonds pointed out that the National Constituent Assembly, under the direction of the M-19 [National Democratic Alliance Party], has become subversive and has established an organized dictatorship [dictadura colegiada] that is opposed to the Supreme Court, the Council of State, and even the government itself.

Meanwhile, Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, leader of the National Salvation Movement and president of the Constituent Assembly, supported the Constituent Assembly's decision to declare itself autonomous and sovereign and to issue constitutional provisions with immediate effect.

### Minister Views Constituent Assembly Limitations

*PA0405153291 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 May 91*

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo's government has asked the Constituent Assembly not to overstep its legislative authority and invited it to enter a political pact to avoid a legal battle among the country's institutions. The statement was made by Government and Interior Minister Humberto De La Calle Lombana, who opposed repealing Decree 1926 that created the Constituent Assembly and said it is not time to subjugate

minorities but to seek a consensus to set Constituent Assembly limits and the use of provisional constitutional rulings.

The government and interior minister warned that the Constituent Assembly is not allowed to issue laws, modify or repeal decrees, or make decisions that are the province of the judicial branch. De La Calle Lombana said that to enter this field creates a precedent in which the Constituent Assembly begins to tread on very dangerous and unsure ground because it is outside its legal bounds. The government and interior minister told the Constitutient Assembly members that no one expects the Constituent Assembly to replace Congress or the judicial branch or to conduct miracles to banish violence, poverty, diseases, and other problems that afflict Colombians.

The Constituent Assembly's legal limits were defined and delineated by the people—sole bearers of the Assembly's primary power. It is the people who decided to create a secondary constituent power [poder constituyente secundario] through a procedure that was within the state of siege, a state of siege regulated by our laws, explained De La Calle.

## Paraguay

### Banking Sector Confused by BCP Resolution

*PY0405142491 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 May 91 p 6*

[Text] On 2 May the management of several money exchange houses and commercial banks highlighted the fact that the new control system implemented by the Superintendency of Banks for dollar transactions higher than $10,000 has led to a lot of confusion.

They said that the doubts are based on the types of transactions that must be registered with the new forms. The Paraguayan Chamber of Banks has reported that it will study the matter in its next regular Wednesday meeting and afterward, it will request necessary clarifications from the Central Bank [BCP]. Until that time, they will register all of their exchange transactions, including purchases, sales, the opening of letters of credit, deposits, and withdrawals.

Several banking organizations did not receive the official circular issued by the Superintendency of Banks, which was published in newspapers on 1 May as a paid advertisement.

Other individuals who were interviewed noted that in 1989, the BCP issued resolutions that authorized the control of transactions linked to exports and imports, but that it is only now that the Superintendency has come out with this resolution because the North Americans are beginning to apply pressure to prevent the laundering of narcodollars, which would be easy in our country.

As a result, there is a possibility that a large quantity of money from drug trafficking and other illegal actions could have been "whitewashed" during the past few years.

Nicolas Aranda, director of a money exchange house, has pointed out that the model introduced by the BCP is a mechanism that is used widely in the United States because it helps police investigations if they are necessary.

### Money Exchange Houses Admit Large Transactions

*PY0405151691 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 May 91 p 6*

[Text] Some money exchange houses have admitted that they have carried out numerous transactions of up to $30,000 without finding out where the money came from long before the Central Bank [BCP] issued its resolution [on transactions exceeding $10,000]. They added that the only precautionary measure they had taken was that they did not accept any bills smaller than $100 because those bills ($1, $5, $10, $20, $50, and $100) are the bills most often used by drug traffickers. They also stated that some days ago, the U.S. Embassy summoned them to bring them up to date on the punishment provided for by U.S. legislation and the possibility of being affected by said punishment.

The precautionary measure, which has been introduced at the request of U.S. experts, covers handling large amounts of money with unknown persons.

### Minister Reports 'No Advances' in IMF Talks

*PY0305151891 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 May 91 p 15*

[Text] Finance Minister Juan Jose Diaz Perez has stated that there have been no advances in talks with the IMF within the framework of the standby [preceding word in English] negotiations. These negotiations began in October 1990 with the signing of a letter of intent that contained the government's immediate objectives regarding the economic policy.

Diaz Perez, along with Central Bank [BCP] President Jose Enrique Paez, returned from Washington on 2 May after participating in a joint meeting, of which he was vice president, of the IMF's Development Committee and the World Bank.

When Diaz Perez was asked about his business in the U.S. capital, he simply answered, with his usual brevity, that there has been no progress in negotiations with the IMF.

For his part, Paez explained that no date has been set for a visit by an IMF mission. This mission must evaluate the behavior of our economy during the first quarter and compare the results with the goals contained in the letter of intent signed by the government.

### First Negative Inflation Rate Since 1989 Noted

*PY0405214891 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 May 91 p 15*

[Excerpt] According to Paraguayan Central Bank [BCP] statistics, after 18 months our country's inflation rate has again yielded a negative figure. The month of April ended with a cost of living index totaling -0.4 percent.

According to the BCP report, the decisive factor in this unusual cost of living performance was a reduction in prices of several foodstuffs, a phenomenon reflected in the consumer price indexes for food, as reviewed by BCP experts, which registered a 2.4-percent decrease. [passage omitted]

## Peru

### Fujimori Leaves for Conference, Salinas Meeting

*PY0605033491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 May 91*

[Excerpt] President Alberto Fujimori left for Mexico today to attend a Pacific Basin economic council meeting. Before his departure, the president was honored by the Hussars of Junin Regiment at the Government House Arms Square. Later, he went to the 8th Air Force Group base, where he boarded the plane that would take him to Guadalajara, Mexico. Fujimori was seen off at the airport by Defense Minister Jorge Torres.

Minutes before boarding the plane, President Fujimori held a news conference. During this news conference, the chief of state expressed his hope that the support group will grant the $550 million in aid that Peru needs in 1991. He also discussed his agenda in Mexico.

[Begin Fujimori recording] We are flying directly to Guadalajara. I will make a speech to explain what I describe as the new image of Peru, although this is not an image but a reality. I will deliver this speech before a large audience of businessmen and officials from Pacific Basin countries.

From Guadalajara, I will travel to Mexico City where I fulfill a five-day official visit in response to an invitation extended by President Salinas de Gortari. My agenda includes negotiations over important subjects like bilateral cooperation in areas that are of great importance to us such as oil prospecting and exploitation, which entails large sums of money. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Renegotiation of Debt With Mexico Approved

*PY0505014091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 91*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We want to report that the agreement to renegotiate Peru's foreign debt with the United Mexican States has been officially approved. Peru's foreign debt with Mexico, which totals $9.03 million, will be paid in nine installments beginning in June 1993. Each payment, which will be made through the National Bank, will be $1,003,367. [passage omitted]

### Health Sector Urged To Reconsider Stance

*PY0405173491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Health Minister Victor Yamamoto believes that health workers will reconsider their measure of pressure so he will not have to request police help.

[Begin recording] [Yamamoto] In light of the difficulties we have with our treasury, I again call on health workers to be patient. I know that their wages are low, but one must be a little patient.

[Unidentified reporter] But, minister, this administration has passed a legal measure on strikes that affect essential services. Do you know of it?

[Yamamoto] Yes, of course.

[Reporter] This law forbids the suspension of emergency services by workers.

[Yamamoto] I am sure the workers will not suspend emergency services.

[Reporter] If that happens, won't sanctions be strictly applied?

[Yamamoto] If this should happen, we will act according to the law.

[Reporter] Minister, have you coordinated plans with other hospitals or institutions, such as the police, to obtain their support if emergency services are suspended?

[Yamamoto] Yes, the military hospitals have tacitly agreed to provide us with auxiliary personnel to help in emergency situations. [end recording]

## Uruguay

### Lacalle To Meet With Bush in Washington

*PY0405035091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1722 GMT 3 May 91*

[Text] Montevideo, 3 May (EFE)—Local diplomatic sources reported today that President Luis Alberto Lacalle will meet with U.S. President George Bush on 20 May in Washington. Lacalle will travel to Washington and New York after visiting Canada from 16 to 19 May.

Before traveling north, Lacalle will meet with his Paraguayan counterpart General Andres Rodriguez during a three-day official visit to Asuncion which will begin on 13 May.

The most important subjects that Lacalle will discuss with the presidents is the Americas Initiative proposed by President Bush and the Common Market of the South, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

In the United States, where he will stay for two days, the Uruguayan chief of state will analyze bilateral relations and Uruguay's foreign debt, which totals nearly $7 billion.

### Officers Leave for Multinational Force in Kuwait

*PY0405034491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1547 GMT 3 May 91*

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 3 May (EFE)—The Uruguayan Army command in Montevideo has reported that the seven Uruguayan officers who will take part in the UN multinational force on the Iraqi border left for Kuwait today.

Army Majors Enrique de Santos and Hugo Grossi and Army Captains Hector Gularte, Carlos Acosta, Dardo Morales, Juan Madura, and Jorge Sanabria left today for the Persian Gulf via Madrid. Tomorrow they will place themselves at the disposal of the head of the Uruguayan group, Lieutenant Adhemar Felipe. [passage omitted]